

GCU

MAGAZINE



Pittsburgh, PA. St. John Chrysostom parish family was happy to support the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank with a \$1,000.00 donation. The parish community donated \$500.00 and GCU matched the donation through the Holiday Food Bank Donation program. Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 21, Fr. Tyler Wisniewski and GCU Parish Coordinator John Niskach presented the check to Paula Harris (center), a Greenfield resident and long-time volunteer at Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Thank you, GCU for helping us fight food insecurity among our neighbors.



DuBois, PA. Nativity of the Mother of God Byzantine Church choose the Salvation Army to benefit from the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation to assist their local community. Shown is Parish Coordinator Grace Marshall presenting the check to Captains Andrew & Breanna Spooner of the DuBois Salvation Army.

President/CEO Report
Page 1

GCU Holiday Food Bank Program
Page 6

GCU Art & Photo Contest
Page 12



Dunellen, NJ. St. Nicholas Church recently gave a donation to the St. John the Evangelist Food Pantry. Parish priest Fr. Alphonsus Kariuke, BPC Margot Gumerlock, St. Nicholas liaison to St. John's Food Pantry Patti Malone and St. John's Social Concern Ministry Mary Lou Chingery. We thank the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation program for doubling our support of this local organization.

Inside This Issue

Volume 134 | Issue 1 | February 2026

- 1** President/CEO Report
- 3** Spiritual
- 4** Product Knowledge
- 5** Estate Planning
- 6** Holiday Food Bank Program
- 12** Art & Photo Contest
- 13** The Goodness of Community
- 16** GoGive!
- 18** Corp. Community Events Coordinators
- 20** Constellations
- 26** Parish Matching Funds
- 40** GCU Supported Parish Events
- 58** Announcements
- 59** Sports
- 60** Deceased Members

Board of Directors

Fr. Valerian M. Michlik
Spiritual Advisor

George Kofel
Chairman of the Board

John J. Urban
Vice-Chairman of the Board

Melanie Basl
Secretary of the Board

George W. Batyko

S. Ronald Bednar

Lisa Gulibon

Michael W. Karaffa

David A. Oleksa

Maria Silvestri

Gregory N. Vladika

Basil M. Wahal,
Editor

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

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

Postmaster

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

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 is the copy deadline for the April GCU Magazine.

Email copy to: bwahal@GCUusa.com or

Mail to: GCU Communications Dept.

Attn: GCU Magazine
5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

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

Phone:

1-724-495-3400

1-800-722-4428

FAX: 1-724-495-3421

info@GCUusa.com

www.GCUusa.com





Jeremy Stephenson
GCU President/CEO

Gaining Momentum

Home Office Update: Momentum, Modernization, and a Member-First Focus. As we move into tax season, activity at the GCU Home Office increases—because this is one of the most important times of year to ensure our members have the information they need, delivered clearly, accurately and on time.

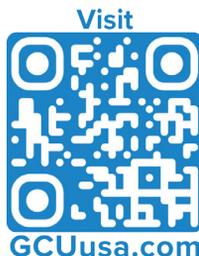
Tax Season: Active and On Schedule. Over the past several weeks, our teams have been focused on preparing and delivering tax-related communications to support members as they get ready to file their 2025 taxes.

Members who received distributions during the year have been mailed the appropriate tax statements. In addition, letters have been sent to members who may be subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) to help explain applicable requirements and upcoming deadlines. These communications are intended to reduce uncertainty and to help members take timely, informed action.

For added convenience, this information is also available through your secure online account at **Members.GCUusa.com**. If you have not yet registered for online access, tax season is an ideal time to do so.

A Website Refresh for Our 134th Anniversary. February marks an important milestone: **GCU's 134th anniversary**. For more than a century, GCU has remained committed to protecting members and strengthening communities—principles that continue to guide us today.

To celebrate this anniversary, we have decided to refresh **GCUusa.com**. The updated website will better reflect who we are today and where we are headed, with improvements designed to enhance clarity, navigation, and overall experience. We encourage members to keep an eye on the website as these updates are rolled out.



Welcoming Lesley Mann: Strengthening Leadership and Membership Growth. As we continue to modernize and position GCU for long-term success, we are pleased to welcome Lesley Mann as our **Chief Marketing and Operating Officer**.

Lesley brings extensive experience in fraternal marketing and sales, with a strong understanding of how to grow membership while remaining true to a fraternal mission. Her background will help GCU more effectively share our story, expand our reach, and engage both current and future members who value financial security and community connection.

In addition to her marketing and sales expertise, Lesley adds meaningful operational leadership—ensuring that growth is supported by scalable processes, modernization and consistent service. We are excited about the strength she brings to our leadership team and the role she will play in GCU's next chapter.

Looking Ahead. Tax season is a busy time, but it also reinforces why GCU exists: to provide dependable service, sound financial solutions, and confidence during important planning moments. As we celebrate 134 years, we are not only honoring our history—we are intentionally building for the future.

Thank you for your continued trust and membership. We look forward to serving you in the months ahead and invite you to stay connected through **GCUusa.com** as we continue to grow and evolve.

Annual Educational Grant



On Sunday, December 7, 2025 GCU President/CEO Jeremy Stephenson presented Metropolitan William Skurla, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh with the GCU's educational grant of \$100,000.⁰⁰. 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 \$4 million.

Project Bundle-Up Donation



On Friday, December 5, 2025 GCU President/CEO Jeremy Stephenson presented a \$6,000.⁰⁰ check to Salvation Army project Bundle-Up. The check presentation was made during the annual telethon on Pittsburgh's WTAE-TV. WTAE is a major sponsor of project

Bundle-Up, which provides warm winter outerwear to needy families throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area.

GCU Home Office Holiday Generosity



Salvation Army Treasures for Children. The GCU Home Office staff once again this year assisted local families through the Salvation Army's Treasures for Children program. GCU employees take great joy in helping area children to have a happy Christmas morning.

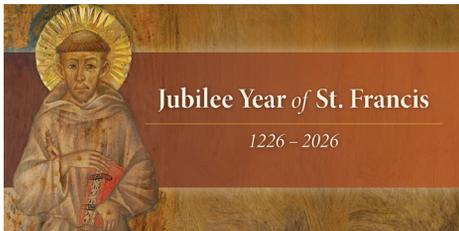


Fr. Valerian M. Michlik

GCU Spiritual Advisor

Be An Example

Dear Friends:
At the beginning of this New Year 2026, I was delighted to hear that Pope Leo XIV had proclaimed a “Special Year of St. Francis” to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint’s death. For the faithful, this will be a time of grace that will extend until January 2027. But why was I happy about this announcement? Because I have a soft spot for St. Francis of Assisi. After living in Rome, Italy



for many years, I have witnessed the devotion of the Italians to St. Francis as the patron saint of their beautiful country.

Pope Leo XIV in his letter to the ministers

general of the Franciscan Family Conference emphasized the following: “in this era, marked by so many seemingly endless wars, by internal and social divisions that create distrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace.” This vision of peace is not just limited to relationships between human beings but can and should be embraced by all of creation. The life of a 13th century humble friar from Assisi is a great example of how to find peace, not only in the ordinariness of life, but also in the messiness of life.

In 2026 my friend, lead your life by a good and holy example like St. Francis! I’m not sure if you have ever attended the ordination of a priest. If not, please plan too. During the vesting of the newly ordained priest, one of the sacred items he receives is a silver priestly pectoral cross. The back of that cross often features the inscription from St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy 4:12, which states: “Be an example to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” This verse emphasizes the importance of living a life that reflects the teach-



ings of the faith, serving as an example for others.

Be a good example in **SPEECH**. St. Francis, whom we are honoring this year, once said: “Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.” I personally believe people around us should be able to tell that you are a Christian by simply listening to what you have to say, and how you say it. This year, try your best in avoiding profanities, ugly talk and hurtful words. Speak encouragingly with loving words.

Be a good example in **CONDUCT**; our conduct is the visible expression of our faith. People may have never read Holy Scripture, but they will read our lives. As followers of Christ, our behavior should reflect His character, not just in church, but in every interaction, decision, and moment of our daily lives. In Matthew 5:16, Our Lord reminds us to let our light shine so others may see our good works and glorify God. Keep that **LIGHT** – Good Works – Positive Conduct shining in your family, at work, at school kids, in our parishes, and the GCU!

Be a good example in **LOVE**. Let me ask you this, “How are you treating people?” In answering that question, do you embody the teachings of Christ, who demonstrated love through His actions. In a world that has embraced darkness, this involves showing compassion and kindness in our day-to-day interactions.

Be a good example in **FAITH**: Faith is trusting God even when the path is unclear. Growing up I was always amazed by the faith of our “baba’s (grandmothers).” Their solid faith in God dictated their day, actions, words, and prayer life. Your faith also can encourage others. You can be an example. Your life can spur others to faith and good works in our families, communities, parishes and the life of the GCU. Live a life that would inspire faith in others, being conscious of the fact that when all is said and done, only those things which you did for Christ and in faith will matter for eternity.

Be a good example in **PURITY**. In our world today do we even understand the importance of purity? That famous sermon on the mount “The Beatitudes,” is for us a recipe for holiness where we also read “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Mt 5.8). Purity of heart means to be free of all wicked motivations and sinful intentions. According to the Fathers of the Eastern Church, purity of heart is an essential condition for union with God.

CONTINUED on page 5



John Luksa
National Sales Director

A Penny Saved is a Dollar Earned

Benjamin Franklin coined the phrase, “A penny, saved is a penny earned.” Over 200 years ago that may have been the case, but these days a penny saved can mean dollars earned with interest and tax advantages.

Why contribute to an IRA? The biggest advantage of investing in an IRA is the potential for your money to grow either tax-free or tax-deferred, depending on the type of IRA you choose. When you contribute to a Traditional or SEP IRA, you get a tax deduction in the year you make the contribution, and you’ll pay taxes only when you take distributions after age 59 ½. On the other hand, with a Roth IRA, you do not receive an immediate tax deduction, but your withdrawals in retirement are tax-free—provided the account has been open for at least five years and you’re over age 59 ½.

To open an IRA, you must have earned income, and your contributions cannot exceed the amount you earned that year. For a SEP IRA, the contribution limit is the lesser of 25% of your compensation or \$70,000.⁰⁰ per participant for 2025. SEP IRAs don’t have a catch-up provision. For Traditional and Roth IRAs, the contribution limit is \$7,000.⁰⁰ for the 2025 tax year, with an additional \$1,000.⁰⁰ catch-up contribution for those 50 and older, bringing the total to \$8,000.⁰⁰. In 2026 that amount raises to \$7,500.⁰⁰ and the catch-up provision adds an additional

\$1,100.⁰⁰ to make the total contribution limit for those 50 and older \$8,600.⁰⁰.

Rules for taking distributions from your IRA can be a bit tricky. You can withdraw funds from your IRA at any time, but keep in mind that the distributions will be included in your taxable income and may be subject to a 10% additional tax penalty if you’re under age 59 ½.

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are the amounts you must start withdrawing from your IRA once you reach a certain age. Before the passage of the SECURE Act 2.0 in 2022, the RMD age was 70 ½, but this law has since changed. Depending on your birth year, the age for RMDs now varies:

- If you were born before January 1, 1951, your RMDs have already begun, and there’s no change.
- If you were born between January 1, 1951, and December 31, 1959, your RMDs must begin once you turn 73.
- If you were born after January 1, 1960, your RMDs must begin once you turn 75.

Roth IRAs do not require withdrawals during the account owner’s lifetime, but after the owner’s death, the beneficiaries will be subject to RMD rules.

This year, make every penny count by maximizing your IRA contributions. Your GCU Agent is here to help you kickstart your retirement planning and answer any questions you may have along the way.



Introducing the New Northeast Regional VP

GCU is pleased to announce Dan Bennett as the new Regional Vice President for the Northeast Region. Dan will be covering the following states: PA, OH, WV, VA, MD, DE, CT, NJ and the District of Columbia.

Dan has 20 years of experience in the financial industry. He has 12 years

of experience as a Regional VP working for Nationwide and Ohio National. He also has 8 years of experience in an advisor/consultant role working with Prudential, Huntington Bank and Key Bank. In his career, Dan has developed a broad knowledgeable of Annuities, Life Insurance, Long Term Care, Alternative Investments and traditional investing. From this experience, Dan has become an expert regarding strategies with retirement

income, retirement planning and wealth transfer.

Dan has been married to his wife Jennifer for 23 years. They have two sons: Ethan (18) and Aidan (15). Dan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from The Ohio State University. He looks forward to working with agents in his territory to develop strategies that will benefit their clients in reaching their financial goals.



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Attention Grandparents!

If you are a grandparent that has opened a bank account for a grandchild, please note that there could be a problem if the account was not opened properly by the bank.

Recently my mother died and I found out that she opened two bank accounts for two great-grandchildren who were just born. I also found out that the bank accounts she opened were incorrectly opened for a minor child.

The facts appear to be that my mom went to a local Pittsburgh bank she and my dad worked with probably forever. At the time, she was 89 years old and went to the bank and asked the bank teller to open two bank accounts for her two great-grandchildren. The teller opened two accounts in my mom's name payable on death to each great-grandchild.

Ten years later my mom dies and I try to obtain the funds for my grandchildren. I now find out the bank teller opened the wrong accounts. The accounts were not opened under the uniform gifts to minor's act nor as custodian accounts for the benefit of the minors.

The result is now I have to pursue a lawsuit against the bank to have the funds transferred to the great-grandchildren's parents until they are 18 years of age.

When I questioned the bank as to how they would create a bank account improperly I was told they don't give legal advice when they open bank accounts. I argued that they took the money and that the bank employee should have advised my mother to seek legal advice. If I knew about what she was doing, I would have advised her what to do.

Banks are very happy to take your money and most bank employees receive incentives for new bank accounts they open. Maybe they knew or maybe should know what is best for you because when it hits the fan, their defense is that they cannot give legal advice.

What to do? If you have opened a bank account for grandchildren or minor children, make sure you have opened the correct accounts. They must be opened as custodian accounts or an account under the gift to minor's act. If you did open an improper account now is the time to make the appropriate changes. If you don't, then your family will incur unnecessary legal and court costs. If you are unsure, please contact your attorney. Don't rely on the bank employee to give you the correct information.

If you have opened a 529 account for college, make sure each account has a custodian and a successor custodian on the account. If one custodian dies, then the successor custodian can take over. If there is no successor custodian, the bank account will have to go through probate. Now is the time to review your bank accounts to make sure they are titled properly.

Questions, comments or ideas about future articles contact me at jurban.gcu@gcuusa.com

Be An Example...

CONTINUED from page 3

Achieving that "unity" is a daily struggle (podvig) that will make us shine with the light of God, since God dwells in the soul.

Friends, I'm sure you can agree with me that these are five important areas that we all can work on in this new year. In 2026, pick one or maybe more areas that need your attention. Remember to give thanks for the wonderful role models of men and women that we have in our communities. Since 1892 the GCU has given examples of ordinary people who embody this desire to achieve a union with God, and for that, we are grateful. Thankfully, we don't need perfect examples or models. As others watch us follow Christ in our brokenness, they learn how to follow Him in theirs.



Basil M. Wahal
Fraternal-Communications
Director

Holiday Food Bank Program

Since 2020, GCU has been providing funding to local food banks in the last quarter of the year to assist with the increased needs during the holidays. This year the program was expanded to include a match of up to \$500.00 for each parish in the Byzantine Parish Coordinator program that took a collection for their local food bank. The GCU Constellations also took part with a requirement of providing volunteers at their local food banks. In addition,

a \$500.00 check was presented to each food bank by the Constellation from the GCU. This year 10 GCU Constellations and 56 parishes participated. With donations from the parishes of \$34,829.³⁷ and GCU donations and matches of \$28,763.⁸⁷ total contributions to local food banks was \$63,593.²⁴ through this year's program. The following pages feature donations made to local food banks throughout the United States. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this program a success.



Houston, TX. Recently, the St. John Chrysostom Parish and GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation Matching Funds checks were donated to the Houston Food Bank. The total donation was \$1,601.50—\$1,101.50 from St. John's and \$500.00 from the GCU. The donations will provide over 4,800 meals to needy families in the greater Southeast Texas Area. Pictured are BPC Theresa Dancsak, Corporate Engagement Senior Manager at Houston Food Bank Kathy Lipman and St. John's parishioner Maria Strietman. Thank you GCU for providing us with this great opportunity to support our community.



Punxsutawney, PA. Ss. Peter & Paul Church collected funds that were matched by the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation program. Checks were presented to Trinity Food Pantry. Terry Orange took the lead for the food drive and is shown presenting the checks to a Trinity Food Pantry representative.



Flushing, MI. St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church along with the GCU Holiday Food Bank Match raised \$511.00 for Catholic Charities North End Soup Kitchen. Checks were delivered to John Manse at the soup kitchen by Parish Coordinator Pat Chartier.



New Salem, PA. Through the generosity of the parishioners at St. Mary Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church and the GCU Holiday Food Bank donation, the New Salem Food Bank, "Feed the Flock," received \$400.00 this holiday season. Thanks to all who donated money and to the hard workers at this Food Bank for helping needy families in the New Salem area. Shown making the donation is Fr. James Ragan, Food Bank Director Doris Gavala and Parish Coordinator Bernadette Karoffa.



Coconut Creek, FL. Father Martin Vavrak, pastor of Our Lady of the Sign Byzantine Catholic Church presented the GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds check along with our parish check to Our Father's House Soup Kitchen in Pompano Beach, FL. The checks presented on Monday, December 15, 2025 totaled \$1,005.00. Pictured are Director of Our Father's House Soup Kitchen Jim Crissy, Father Martin, CEO of Our Father's House Soup Kitchen Katie Crissy and BPC and Lay Trustee of Our Lady of the Sign Byzantine Catholic Church Michael Donegan. Thank you GCU for your support for this worthy cause in our community!



Mont Clare, PA. St. Michael Byzantine Parish Coordinator Patricia Dietz presented the checks from St. Michael's food bank collection and the GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds to Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS). President of PACS Mary Fuller accepted the checks. They were extremely happy to receive the funds.



Southside, PA. Fr. Tyler Wisniewski and Parish Coordinator Beverley Rebovich from St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church and Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank representative Kim Kolesar (center) presented their church collection as well as the GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds checks totaling \$310.00 to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.



Clairton, PA. A GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds check was presented to the director of the Clairton Food Pantry Charlene Wade. Parish Coordinator for Ascension Church Trish Roberts is shown making the presentation.

Jessup, PA. Holy Ghost Parish Coordinator Gregory Barkowski presents a matching funds check from proceeds of the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation program to Elaine Severs and Laura Fiorelli of the Bread Basket of Northeastern PA. Volunteers of the Food Pantry, which is located across the street from Holy Ghost Church, provide non-perishable items to families in need in the Valley cities area.



HOLIDAY GIVING BACK



Rahway, NJ. St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church recently delivered a \$1,450.00 check (\$950.00 raised by the church and \$500.00 from the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation Match) to St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth, NJ. Shown are St. Thomas Event Coordinator Sandy Yelenovsky, St. Joseph's Development Director Mary Phillips, St. Thomas Trustee John Szpyhulsky and St. Joseph's Food Program Coordinator Hany Lopez. David Brighthouse | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Columbus, OH. Director of Development and Fundraising Sara Acocks, Pastor of St. John Chrysostom Church Fr. Robert Jager, Executive Director Chad Maxeiner and GCU Byzantine Parish Coordinator Kathy Krofcheck with check presented to WARM through the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation program.



Nanty Glo, PA. Donations to the local food pantry to help feed the community were made by St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church along with a Holiday Food Bank Donation Match from the GCU. Shown are Fr. Robert Oravetz, Dave Rager and Parish Coordinator Andrea Sheesley.



Uniontown, PA. St. John Byzantine Church Parish Coordinator Stephen Petruska Jr. presented the parish and GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation checks to Director of Fayette County Community Action Agency Kimberly Hawk.



Patton, PA. Fr. Roman Andriitso and Byzantine Parish Coordinator Brian Soyka presented GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation checks to the director of the Saint Vincent de Paul Queen of Peace Food Bank Jerry Greiner. Ss. Peter & Paul parish collected \$595.00 together with the generous GCU \$500.00 contribution, we were able to present \$1,095.00 to the food bank. In addition, Jerry shared that they had a donor matching gifts donated to the food bank, so our gift turned into \$2,190.00. Thank you!

Sykesville, PA. Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church presented a check to the Reynoldsville, PA Food Pantry. Pictured presenting the Holy Trinity donation of \$945.00 along with the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation Match of \$500.00 is Parish Coordinator Teresa Kennis to pantry coordinators James & Sherrie Green. Together we are strengthening our Communities.





Westbury, NY. St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church along with GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds made a \$1,000.00 donation to Saint Raphael Food Bank. Ann Lederer and the Parish of Social Ministry at Saint Raphael accepted the check from Parish Coordinator Marge Russell. They were very thankful for the donations to help within the community.



Brecksville, OH. St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Coordinator Nancy Fredrick is shown presenting the GCU Holiday Food Bank donation check to representatives from St. Joseph Outreach. The money will be used to purchase ingredients for sandwiches that are made weekly for the homeless in downtown Cleveland.



Morgantown, WV. St. Mary Holy Protection made a donation to St. Ursula Food Pantry and Outreach. Parish Coordinator Robert Johnson presented the GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds check and parish donations to Sr. Rachel Blais. St. Mary Church raised \$342.00 and the GCU matched that total for the Food Pantry this year. Sr. Rachel was very appreciative and we thank the GCU for the Match.



Anaheim, CA. Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church presented the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry with two checks totaling nearly \$1,200.00. One represented the generosity of Annunciation parishioners and the other GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds. Shown is food pantry President Gabriel Garcia accepting the checks from Annunciation Pastor Fr. Stephen Washko and Parish Coordinator Deacon Greg Gath. The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry provides food to 500 local families three times a week. Thank you again to GCU for its generous support.



Pittston, PA. GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation Check presentation from St. Michael Church Parish Coordinator Nancy Stout to Mary Ellen Spellman of the Weinberg Regional Food Bank. Thank you GCU for this donation to our local food bank.



Homer City, PA. Pictured are Janet Petro Parish Coordinator at St. Anne Byzantine Church in Clymer, PA, ICCAP Community Food Bank Program Director Aimee Kemp and Andrea Nicolo from Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer City, PA. Janet and Andrea are making donations to the food bank from the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation program. Larry DeChurch | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

HOLIDAY GIVING BACK



Euclid, OH. Holy Resurrection Parish Coordinator Patti Comai presented a check to the Euclid Hunger Center thanks to the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation program. Pictured are Managing Director Kay O'Donnell and Parish Coordinator Patti Comai.

Hermitage, PA. On Thursday, December 4, St. Michael Parish Coordinator Bill Dzurickso visited the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley. Bill presented a GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds check of \$196.⁰⁰ to Director of Operations Kim Brock. This year's annual GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation was expanded to add matching funds for all of the food donations provided by the parishioners of St. Michael. Under the leadership of Very Rev. Fr. Kevin Marks, approximately 1,299 pounds of food was collected at St. Michael-Hermitage, PA; St Michael-Campbell, OH; and Wee Wisdom Pre-School-Hermitage, PA. The food was donated to Second Harvest in November. Kim explained that each dollar donated will provide 5 meals for those in need during the holidays.



Northern Cambria, PA. St. John Byzantine Church Parish Coordinator Sandra Ferrance presented donations from the church and the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation Match to the Good Samaritan Food Bank. Shown are Director of the Food Pantry Ed Demi, Treasurer Deb Weiland and BPC Sandy Ferrance. They were very pleased and thanked everyone for their contribution.



Canonsburg, PA. GCU Parish Coordinator Constance Beatty presented the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation Matching Funds check of \$500.⁰⁰ to Toni Vallone representing St. Oscar Romero Meadowlands Food Bank. Very Rev. Joseph Raptosh, pastor at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, also presented Toni a \$900.⁰⁰ check representing donations made by the parishioners. Ms. Vallone expressed special thanks to the GCU for sponsoring the program and the generosity of the Matching Funds and to St. Michael Parish community for remembering the needy serviced by this food bank. Cheerfully given and cheerfully received.

Upper St. Clair, PA. A check from St. Gregory Church for \$1,940.⁰⁰, representing donations made by our parishioners during our November Parish Outreach Project, along with the GCU Holiday Food Bank Match of \$500.⁰⁰ were delivered to Rachel White. Rachel is the Development and Communications Manager, South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM) in Bethel Park, PA. These funds will go a long way toward assisting our less fortunate neighbors in Pittsburgh's South Hills area to meet basic needs. St. Gregory's is very grateful for this partnership with the GCU, helping to make a difference in our community.
Dorothy Mayernik | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



HOLIDAY GIVING BACK



Pittsburgh, PA. St. Pius X Church & GCU Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds checks were presented to Peggy Donley from the St. Paul Monastery Food Pantry by Parish Coordinator Kim Kolesar.



Bradenville, PA. St. Mary Byzantine Church, in conjunction with the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation program, donated \$2,000.00 along with \$500.00 from the GCU to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Thank you GCU for supporting our local food bank and assisting many of our neighbors! Parish Coordinator Sue Wojciechowski Snyder is shown with Donor Relations Coordinator for Westmoreland County Food Bank Patrick Hooker.



Indianapolis, IN. St. Athanasius Byzantine Church Parish Coordinator Olga Vaughn presented St. Athanasius Food Bank Administrator Dusy Mansfield with two checks totaling \$1,064.00. Funds were donated from the church and the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation program and will assist local residents and the homeless community.



Lansford, PA. The Shepherd House food pantry was the recipient of \$300.00 in donations from the GCU Holiday Food Bank program and St. John Byzantine Catholic Church. Parish Coordinator Susan Seaver presented Pantry Coordinator Richard Willing with the donation checks.

ANNOUNCING THE GCU

2026 ART & PHOTO CONTEST!

This year's theme:
"My Favorite Place!"

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 on the back of
your submission & mail to GCU home office.
ART: age 6 & under / age 7-9 / age 10-12

If you're 13-UP enter your photo!

Include short description, name, age, address,
phone number & email with your submission to
events@GCUusa.com.
PHOTO: age 13-21 & age 22 & older

Photos that include identifiable people require
a model release. The model release form is
available for download at GCUusa.com/events.

Deadline:
Friday, June 5, 2026




**3rd Annual
GCU Spring
St. Nicholas
Celebration**
St. Nicholas Chapel &
Seven Oaks CC
Beaver, PA
Sunday, May 3
Liturgy—3 PM
Dinner—5 PM
COMPLETE DETAILS AND
RESERVATIONS AT
GCUUSA.COM/EVENTS

Community Matching Funds

ASPINWALL, PA



Trish Roberts and Patty Bovee making the delivery to the Veterans.

Donation to Our Veterans

Parish Coordinators Patty Bovee from St. John Cathedral in Munhall, PA and Trish Roberts of Ascension Church in Clairton, PA joined together to collect donations for homeless and disabled veterans as a Community Matching Funds project. Along with monetary donations, a variety of personal hygiene items were also collected—socks, slippers, reading glasses and books to mention a few. Both parishes and their communities contributed to the efforts. A GCU Matching Funds check was delivered to the Veterans Administration in Aspinwall.

Trish Roberts



Trish Roberts and VA volunteer representative Patti Hume.



Community Matching Funds

ELLWOOD CITY, PA

Dueling Piano Fundraiser

GCU member Barbara Beachem presented a GCU Matching Funds check from a “Dueling Piano” fundraiser she held to Municipal Woman’s Club Treasurer Shirley Coccia and President Nancy Fenton. Funds will be used to refurbish the club owned gazebo which is used by the community for pictures and as a gathering place.

Barbara Beachem

Community Matching Funds

HOMESTEAD, PA

Troop Popcorn Sales

BSA Cub Scout Pack 7004 sold several types of popcorn to family members and Munhall community members. They sat at different locations throughout the months of September, October and November. The troop was happy to receive GCU Community Matching Funds to boost their sales efforts.

Patricia Bovee



Community Matching Funds

PITTSBURGH, PA



Executive Director of WORK'S Vivien Luk with Kylin Rosnick in the right corner.

WORK'S Bright Future

A GCU Matching Funds check was received by Vivien Luk to benefit the charitable organization “WORK’S.” They support and invest in dignified jobs, educations and opportunity for families in Haiti and beyond. Thank you GCU for the Community Matching funds.

Kylin Rosnick

Community Matching Funds

JESSUP, PA

Crystal Band Concert

A quote from Melissa (Mancak) Hughes: “This year’s Crystal Band concert is more than just music for me—it’s community, family, tradition and a legacy that literally lights up Jessup.

“My mom, Michaela Mancak, puts her whole heart (and then some!) into organizing this event every year - from gathering donations to coordinating basket sponsors. She works behind the scenes for months to make this concert something truly special for the community.

“But this year’s concert carries an extra layer of meaning. The concert will also benefit Jessup’s Operation Noel, an organization that’s woven into the fabric of my family’s history. Operation Noel began back in 1963, as a casual conversation between friends, including my

late grandfather, Honorable John Mancak, former Mayor of Jessup. What started as a simple idea - decorating Jessup with glowing Christmas displays - quickly became a mission to bring light, joy and holiday spirit to the entire town.

“As talk turned to action, volunteers started fundraising to purchase the first pieces of Christmas decor that still define the town today. And, just like his father, my dad, Ron Mancak, has carried the torch (or...the Christmas bulbs) ever since. He didn’t realize back then how deeply those lights would mean to people, but now, after decades of helping decorate Jessup, he sees their impact in every smile, every memory, every family driving down Church Street to admire the glow.

“Those displays - especially the iconic Church Street lights - aren’t just decorations—they’re tradition, history,



Presentation to the Director of the Crystal Band Doreen Ignatovich, St. Nick (Tim Keller) and Michaela Mancak.

togetherness. And they are lovingly maintained by volunteers who keep the spirit of Operation Noel alive.

“So, performing in this concert, knowing it supports a cause started by my grandfather and continued by my father, means more than I can put into words. It’s like stepping into a piece of my family’s story—while helping make sure the lights keep shining for generations to come.”

As a note of interest, Mayor Joseph Buckshon, has acknowledged a Jessup native: Mr. Bob Mycko with a proclamation. Mr. Mycko wrote a Christmas song called “The Christmas Lights on Church Street.” It has been proclaimed the town song. It can be heard on You Tube and many, many

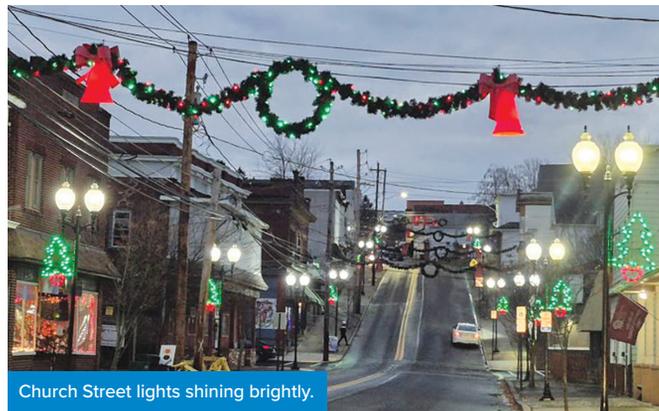
radio stations. He also has a Facebook page.

Thank you GCU Community Matching Funds for helping Jessup keep the lights on for Christmas’ to come.

Michaela Mancak



Check presentation (from left): President of Operation Noel Ronald Mancak, Michaela Mancak, Mayor Joseph Buckshon, Craig Pezak, Robin Buckshon, Nancy Wasilchak, Treasurer of Operation Noel Gary Pezak and Kenny Marchegiani.



Church Street lights shining brightly.



Community Matching Funds

LILLY, PA

Martha's Manor

St. John Cathedral in Munhall, PA collected gifts & monetary donations for residents as well as the aides and kitchen staff at Martha's Manor. Volunteers wrapped each gift to be delivered along with a Christmas meal. The Community Matching Funds helped with the purchase of necessary food and items needed for the residents at Martha's Manor.



Patricia Bovee

Community Matching Funds

INDIANA, PA



ARIN IU 28 Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness

St. Nicholas Parish in Nanty Glo held a collection for students in need. The collection provided school supplies and hygiene products to help students be prepared for the school day. The parishioners were happy to assist students that are in need due to homelessness. Thank you GCU Community Matching Funds for adding to the success of this event.

Andrea Sheesley

Community Matching Funds

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra Concert

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra (PCO) held its Holiday Concert, "Sparkle and Shine," at the Upper St. Clair High School Auditorium. The concert featured many holiday favorites, including Sleigh Ride, Silent Night and Joy to the World. Also, South Hills Chorale was invited to perform alongside the orchestra on a few musical numbers; in addition, they

sang some selections on their own. It was the perfect way to ring in the holiday season with lively music and beautiful singing. A basket raffle and stationery sale fundraisers were available. GCU Community Matching Funds contributed to the

success of this event. The PCO is a non-profit volunteer orchestra that provides a place for musicians to



The Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra.



Member of the South Hills Chorale & St. Pius X Cantor Gerry O'Connor (left) with Karen, Sara & Mark Pavlick.

gather and play classical music and perform for the benefit of the community. Concerts are held four times a year.

Karen Pavlick

Lakes Community/First Fruit Ministries Backpack Collection 2025

Lakes Community, Brunswick Forest, Leland, NC. Members of the Lakes neighborhood located in the Brunswick Forest community in Leland, NC donated 67 backpacks that were delivered to First Fruit Ministries in Wilmington, NC on November 7, 2025. An additional 10 backpacks were purchased using a GCU GoGive! grant. First Fruit Ministries uses the backpacks in ministering to the local homeless community during their annual Outreach Banquet. Each backpack is filled with winter clothing, hats, gloves and other cold weather accessories.

Donna Danchisko



At left: Sharon Meyer, Scott Bragman from First Fruit Ministries. At right: Donna Danchisko, Jenni Gallo from First Fruit Ministries and John Danchisko.

Enchanted Pictures with Santa



St. Augustine, FL. Enchanted Pictures with Santa provided positive experiences with Santa for special needs children in a beautifully decorated North Pole living room setting. Santa and his helper were exceptionally thoughtful, patient and caring to each child who spent time with him. This year we served 28 special needs children and their families. An estimated 92 cumulative hours of volunteer time was spent to make this day another great success. Our friendly volunteers welcomed them in with crafts and goodies, a local micro-school dedicated to special needs education provided a relaxing sensory room and our favorite Christmas pony came back to offer rides through the grounds on a beautiful sunny day. The event was held the weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday, which allowed families time to create their family Christmas cards. We plan to serve even more families next year! The event was sponsored by Christ Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church where Rev. Mark B. Stirdivant is pastor. Thanks to the GCU GoGive! program for making this event possible.

Cathy Skarr



Christmas Market for Africa Surgery

Morristown, NJ. The church of the Assumption supports Africa Surgery Inc. A nonprofit organization that funds medical care in Sierra Leone. A forty foot container of badly needed surgical supplies will be shipped with all these supplies. We participated in the Christmas market with the sales of wood carvings and holiday items that were purchased by church parishioners. The GCU GoGive! grant was used to purchase some of the items sold at the Christmas Market. All the monies collected will help Africa Surgery Inc. The money collected from donations will help hundreds of Sierra Leonians with simple and complex surgeries.

Marilyn Cofnuk

Shoebboxes For Soldiers



Members of the Knights of Columbus Assembly 2017 provided the Sgt. Eugene Ashley Memorial Center with various toiletries, laundry and cleaning supplies.

Wilmington, NC. The Sgt. Eugene Ashley Memorial Center provides short-term transitional housing for homeless veterans who have been offered and accepted a permanent housing solution, but are still working on access to that housing. Veterans at the Center are provided with meals, clothing, toiletries and laundry supplies donated from surrounding communities. The Knights of Columbus Msgr. Christopher Dennen Assembly 2017 supports the Ashley Center with “Shoebboxes for Soldiers,” providing various toiletries for residents. In addition to this, a GoGive! grant was used to purchase and donate laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and toiletries to further

support this worthy cause. The Knights and the Ashley Center greatly appreciate the GCU awarding this grant.

John Danchisko

Empower and Elevate Pittsburgh Women



Empower and Elevate Pittsburgh Women founder Megan McKay and Patricia Wegener.

Sewickley, PA. As a volunteer with Empower and Elevate Pittsburgh Women I have learned that Programs such as SNAP and WIC do not provide coverage for personal hygiene items. Empower and Elevate Pittsburgh Women provides essential personal hygiene kits that are distributed through local nonprofits including: Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Hearth, North Hills Community Outreach, Light of Life Mission, POWER House and Mobile Mission. With the help of the GCU GoGive! grant I was able to shop for the best deals on items such as toothpaste, lip balm, deodorant and pads. All items were on sale to enable the donation to Empower and Elevate to stretch as far as possible. Thank you GCU for assisting this great cause!



Purchased items.

Patricia Wegener

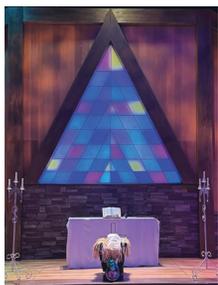
Corporate Community Events Coordinators



Casey Bush
Corporate Community
Events Coordinator
Western PA

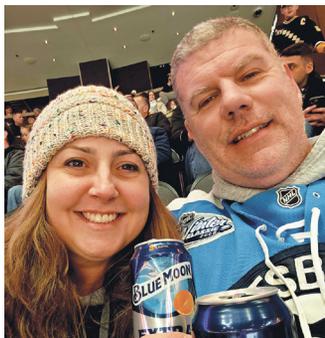


Pittsburgh Steeler Game. GCU members attended an action-packed Steeler Game on November 16 at Acrisure Stadium! The Steelers won against their rivals, the Cincinnati Bengals 34-12. All members enjoyed a chilly but very exciting Steeler win!



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. On Saturday, December 13 GCU members attended The Best Christmas Pageant Ever at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, Midland PA. Members got a good laugh at this hilarious and heart-warming Christmas Classic. What a treat to kick off the holiday season.

Pittsburgh Penguins Hockey Game. Seventy GCU members and guests braved the frigid cold to cheer on their hometown NHL Penguins on Thursday, January 29 at PPG Paints Arena. The fans were treated to a 6-2 win over the Chicago Blackhawks. It was an exciting way to spend a cold winter night.



More photos on page 59



Wicked. GCU members enjoyed a sold-out performance of Wicked on January 31, 2026, at the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh. Iconic Characters, catchy show tunes, and an empowering female friendship. All our members enjoyed the wonderful performance of Wicked. What musical magic!

More photos on page 58

Upcoming Events

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, March 23 11:30 AM
Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA

Pittsburgh Pirate Game + Drone Show

Pirates vs Minnesota Twins (Section 119)
Friday, May 29 6:40 PM
PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA

Spring Golf Classic

Monday, June 8 9:30 AM Shotgun
Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 7 11:30 AM
Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA

GCU & Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park

Thursday, July 23 Park opens at 11 AM
West Mifflin, PA

Pittsburgh Pirate Game

Firework Extravaganza Night

Pirates vs New York Mets (Section 119)
Friday, August 7 6:40 PM
PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA

Pittsburgh Steelers Game

Date to be Announced
Acrisure Stadium, Pittsburgh, PA

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit GCUusa.com for more information on these events or contact Casey Bush at cbush@GCUusa.com or call 724-683-3927.



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

Starting the Year Strong: Community, Connection & What’s Ahead at GCU.

February may be one of the coldest months of the year, (As I write this article in late January I am currently wondering if our official snow count will be 20 inches when I wake up in the morning), but at GCU, it’s also one of the warmest — filled with connection, shared purpose and plenty to look forward to. As we settle into the new year, GCU is embracing the season by staying connected and finding meaningful ways to come together, even as winter lingers a little longer.

With a full calendar of activities already taking shape, GCU members have many opportunities to beat the winter blues and start the year off right. From fun social outings and travel experiences to volunteer efforts that truly make a difference, there is something for everyone — and we’re just getting started. Even more events are in the works, so stay tuned to upcoming email blasts for the latest announcements.

A February to Celebrate Love, Legacy & Service. February is especially meaningful for GCU. On February 14, we celebrate not only Valentine’s Day, but also **GCU Founders’ Day**, commemorating the organization’s founding in **1892**. Now **134 years strong**, GCU’s legacy is rooted in people coming together, supporting one another and building community — values that remain just as important today as they were more than a century ago.

This season of love naturally inspires generosity, and some of the GCU Constellations have discussed ways to spread kindness within their communities. From organizing care packages for shelters to supporting local food pantries, these group efforts remind us how impactful even small acts of service can be. A few pairs of socks, a gallon of milk, or a simple donation of time can make a meaningful difference — and at GCU, that spirit of giving is at the heart of who we are.

While we’re known for gathering at great social events, we’re equally proud of the compassion and care our members show year-round. If you find a way to spread a little extra love this winter, drop me an email or call! I would love to add your individual acts of kindness in the next *GCU Magazine*!

Fun, Fellowship & New Opportunities Ahead. Looking ahead to the coming months, GCU is excited to offer a wide variety of experiences designed to bring people together. One of the most exciting aspects of the year ahead is the continued expansion of events into new regions. GCU is actively exploring opportunities to bring activities



Upcoming Events

Top Golf Outings

Save the Dates

Edison, NJ

Thursday, March 26 2 PM

King Of Prussia

Thursday, April 16 12 PM

Philadelphia, PA

Sunday, May 3 4 PM

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

MLB Florida Spring Training Games

Contact Melissa for more info

2026 Sight & Sound Trips: “Joshua”

Sight & Sound Theater
 (Lancaster) Ronks, PA

New Jersey/Scranton/Wilkes-Barre

Friday, May 8 3 PM

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton

Saturday, June 6 3 PM

New Jersey/Philadelphia

Tuesday, June 9

Helping Hands Day

Saturday, June 13

8 AM Service/9 AM Work Begins
 Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Byzantine Family Day

Sunday, July 19 11 AM

Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA

Tickets to ALL events must be purchased in advance.

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

to additional areas, giving more members the chance to participate closer to home. Interest from various locations helps shape what’s next, and member feedback continues to play an important role as plans develop.

Looking Forward Together. From our founding in 1892 to today, GCU has thrived because of its members and their willingness to show up, get involved and care for one another.

Here’s to starting the year strong, staying warm through the winter months and continuing to build connections that matter. There’s plenty ahead and we can’t wait to share it with you. Be sure to stay tuned for upcoming email blasts — and we hope to see you soon at a GCU event or volunteer activity!

Constellations

UPCOMING BEAVER CONSTELLATION EVENTS

Adult No-Tap Bowling Tournament

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Bowling begins 2:30 PM - report by 2 PM

Sit Down Dinner 4:45 PM Cash Bar

Bowling & Dinner at the SAME LOCATION

\$45 Members

\$57 Non-Members

\$33 Dinner Only

Price includes bowling, shoes, prizes & sit down dinner

Registration Deadline is March 7, 2026

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

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

Hairspray Show & Dinner at Seven Oaks

Sunday, May 3, 2026

2 PM Show

Dinner to follow at Seven Oaks Country Club

\$40 Ticket & Burger Meal - Members

\$60 Ticket & Crab Cake Meal - Members

\$52 Ticket & Burger Meal - Non-Members

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

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

Registration Deadline is Friday, April 24, 2026

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

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

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

Save the Dates

Seneca Niagara Casino Bus Trip

Monday, June 22 thru Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Beaver Constellation Golf Outing at Seven Oaks

Monday, September 28, 2026

More Information to Come



Paul Bodnarchuk.

Beaver Constellation

Play it Forward Volunteer Event

A cold and snowy Saturday morning in mid-December did not deter GCU Beaver Constellation volunteers! Some traveled over an hour to the Pittsburgh Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh for the annual Play it Forward volunteer day on December 13. Play it Forward provides under-served Pittsburgh area families the opportunity to "shop" free of charge for gently used

and new toys for their children's Christmas gifts. Don Ribarchak of Greenfield-Pittsburgh, is our longest serving volunteer at the event. There were many needy families at this year's event and everyone we encountered was so grateful for our help and for Play it Forward Pittsburgh. We will be back again next year! Thanks to Leslie Begala Bodnarchuk for taking photos this year.

Elizabeth Harbist | Beaver
Constellation Coordinator



William Kubit.



Leslie Begala Bodnarchuk; Duane DeBastiani; Don Ribarchak; Mike Lebanik and Paul Bodnarchuk.

Butler/North Pittsburgh Constellation

Merry Rocking Christmas Concert

This past December, the Butler/North Pittsburgh Constellation ushered in the holiday season in spectacular fashion at the Merry Rocking Christmas Concert featuring



Michael Cavanaugh and his band. The audience was treated to an electrifying evening filled with beloved Christmas classics, high-energy performances and crowd-pleasing popular hits that had the entire venue buzzing with the festive spirit. Cavanaugh and his band delivered an unforgettable concert experience, blending holiday cheer with rock-and-roll flair. It was the perfect, joy-filled kickoff to the Christmas season and a night that attendees will be talking about well into the New Year.



A unique looking Santa poses with Sarah Bajack.

Casey Bajack | Butler/North Pittsburgh Constellation Coordinator

Hazleton Constellation

Saint Nicholas Day Celebration

GCU members and guests gathered at Capriotti's Catering in McAdoo, PA for a heartwarming Saint Nicholas Day Celebration that blended tradition, fellowship and generosity. The festive event brought the spirit of the season to life as Saint Nicholas himself made a special appearance, delighting attendees of all ages.

Guests enjoyed a lively afternoon highlighted by an impressive selection of raffle baskets, adding excitement and fun throughout the celebration. Beyond the festivities, the event also served a meaningful purpose. Attendees generously donated toys in support of the Catholic Charities Toy Drive, helping ensure that children and families in need experience the joy of the holiday season.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of those who participated, the toy donations collected at the event helped

CONTINUED



Fr. Eugene Hradil, Melissa Jaggars, Margie Sheeto, Rick Hoppey, Saint Nicholas, Mike Komishock, Kevin Yurkanin and Fr. Vasyl Chepelskyy.

UPCOMING HAZLETON CONSTELLATION EVENTS

Lehigh Valley Phantoms vs Wilkes-Barre Penguins

Sunday, March 15, 2026

3:05 PM

\$13 Members

\$28.50 Non-Members

PPL Center, Allentown, PA

Breakfast with the Reester Bunny

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Varies Seating Times

\$30 Members / \$15 Children

\$45.95 Non-Members / \$29.95 Children

Hershey's Chocolate World, Hershey, PA

Save the Dates

Helping Hands Day

Saturday, June 13, 2026

8 AM Optional Mass / 9 AM HHD Begins

Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Park

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Elysburg, PA

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

Hazleton Constellation...

local families. GCU extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed, volunteered and helped make the Saint Nicholas Day Celebration a wonderful success—one that truly reflected the values of compassion, community and giving that define the season.

Kevin Yurkanin | Hazleton Constellation Coordinator

Illinois Constellation

Christmas Dinner and Bingo Night

On December 16, Illinois Constellation members and guests gathered at Jameson's Pub in Frankfort, IL for a Christmas party and bingo night. Attendees had a delicious dinner and then played some games of bingo. A few of us even won! Everyone who attended went home with a door prize. The best part of the evening was the fellowship enjoyed by all.

Karly Crown | Illinois Constellation Coordinator



Indiana Constellation

Holiday Party and Food Drive

The GCU Indiana Constellation held a holiday party on Thursday, December 11, 2025. A food drive was held at that time with items collected donated to the Hilltop Food Pantry.

Michelle Earp | Indiana Constellation Coordinator

UPCOMING LAUREL HIGHLANDS CONSTELLATION EVENTS

Sight & Sound Theatre - Joshua

Saturday, October 10, 2026

8 AM Bus Pickup at Trinity Parish

Lunch at Hershey Farms (included in ticket price)

3 PM Show

\$160 GCU Members / \$110 Child Members

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

Registration Deadline is September 1

Sight & Sound Theatre

300 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572

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

Laurel Highlands Constellation

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The Laurel Highlands Constellation members supported the Salvation Army during the Christmas Season by ringing the bell at the Johnstown Galleria on December 6. The GCU Home Office provided a \$250.00 donation to our local Salvation Army office in conjunction with this volunteer activity.

As we begin the new year, I wish to express my appreciation to the GCU Board of Directors, the Home Office Staff and members within the Laurel Highlands Constellation area for their support to the events that were held in 2025, including the two volunteer events that supported the Cambria County Backpack Project and the Johnstown Salvation Army.

We are exploring social and volunteer opportunities



for 2026, and more information will be made available once they are finalized.

Georgia Lehman | Laurel Highlands Constellation Coordinator



New Jersey Constellation

Festive Bus Trip to Bethlehem

GCU's New Jersey and Philadelphia Constellations came together for a joyful holiday bus trip to Bethlehem, PA, creating a memorable day filled with seasonal spirit and community

connection. The group enjoyed a visit to Wind Creek Casino, where attendees took in the live production of *Miracle on 34th Street*, a heartwarming performance that perfectly captured the magic of the season.

The day also included time to explore the casino and a stop at Bethlehem's renowned Christkindl Market. With its twinkling lights, traditional vendors and festive atmosphere, the market offered the perfect backdrop for holiday shopping, warm treats and shared moments among members and guests.

From classic holiday entertainment to cherished traditions, the trip delivered a truly festive experience that left everyone feeling inspired and in the holiday spirit—another wonderful example of GCU Constellations bringing members together to celebrate community and the joy of the season.

Cynthia Visovsky | NJ Constellation Coordinator

Northeast Ohio Constellation



Breakfast with Santa

GCU Northeast Ohio Constellation members and their families enjoyed a delicious breakfast at Tanglewood Golf Club on Sunday, December 7, 2025.

Afterwards, the children had a chance to spend time with Santa and Mrs. Claus to share their wish lists and for photos.



Volunteering with Cleveland Food Bank

Two GCU members assisted the Greater Cleveland Food Bank by volunteering time on Thursday, December 11. Their efforts benefited many local families.

Dean Scouloukas | Northeast Ohio Coordinator

UPCOMING NORTHEAST OHIO CONSTELLATION EVENT

Cleveland Guardians Baseball Game

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Guardians vs. Pittsburgh Pirates

4 PM

\$28 Member

\$34 Non-Member

Section 311

Deadline to Register is July 13

Progressive Field

2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, OH 44115

Disney's The Lion King - The Musical

Sunday, July 26, 2026

1 PM

\$45 Member

\$52.50 Non-Member

Deadline to Register is July 20

Keybank State Theatre

1519 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115

Contact: Dean Scouloukas at 216-421-6207 or

dscouloukas@GCUusa.com

Register at GCUusa.com Events (July) of either of the above events and pay with a credit or debit card. Available SOON

Pittsburgh Constellation

A Jazzy Christmas

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, Pittsburgh Constellation members enjoyed an event that put everyone in the Christmas spirit. The evening began at Primanti's in Mt. Lebanon, PA. Upon entering our reserved area, the place settings were festively decorated with Christmas plates, cups and a souvenir bag of GCU goodies and candy. First, the group enjoyed a variety of pizzas, salad and soft drinks. Next, door prizes were awarded and the Right-Left game was played. Last, three waiters participated as judges for the ugly Christmas sweater contest. Bath and Body Works gift bags were



Ugly Christmas sweater winners.



Jazz concert attendees with Santa.

awarded to the winners. The group said good-bye to the first part of the evening as they left for the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra's Jazzy Christmas: Sparkle and Shine at the Upper St. Clair High School auditorium. GCU member, Sarah Pavlick, plays violin in the group. In

addition to the orchestra, the South Hills Chorale performed several songs with the Orchestra. It was a fun evening of socializing, good food, fun, laughter and beautiful music.

Kim Kolesar | Pittsburgh Constellation Coordinator

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

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

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

The Home Office will be closed Friday, April 3 in observance of Good Friday.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Constellation

Holiday Pizza Party

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Constellation held a pizza party at Joe's Grotto in Wilkes-Barre, PA on December 28, 2025. An all you can eat pizza, salad and soda buffet was served with cupcakes and cookies for dessert. A special guest-St. Nicholas, helped distribute the \$10 exchange gifts, give his blessings, and pose for some great pictures. A fun time was had by all in attendance.

Save the Dates

Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery on Saturday, June 13 and Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Park on Sunday, July 19.

Laure Marcin | Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Constellation Coordinator



Row 1: Dorianna & Vinci Latona, Johnny Kurilla, Vivianna Latona and Marlene Williams. Row 2: Antonina Prodanets, Stephen Kurilla, St. Nicholas (Dr. John Evans), Jason Marcin and Ivan Prodanets. Row 3: Colleen Evans, Ivanna Prodanets, Mary Ann & Jack Wright, Vincent Latona, Laure Marcin and Stepan Prodanets.



UPCOMING SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE CONSTELLATION EVENTS

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

Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 6:05 PM

\$13 Member (includes meal deal voucher)

\$28.⁵⁰ Non-Member

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

Mohegan Sun Arena

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

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

Cooking Show Celebration

Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 2 PM

\$65 Adult Member or \$120 for 2 Members

\$85 Non-Member

Chef Kim McLendon star of The Cooking Show will demonstrate how to prepare Beef Wellington.

Rustic Kitchen-Located inside Mohegan Sun Casino

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

Mother's Day Weekend Overnight

Friday, May 8, 2026

Includes: overnight accommodations for one night, Sight & Sound ticket to see Joshua, buffet meals, bus and Longwood Gardens ticket

If interested: contact Laure Marcin at 570-466-5941 or lmarcin@GCUusa.com to pre-register by **March 1, 2026**

Sight & Sound Bus Trip - "Joshua"

Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 3 PM

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

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

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

Sight & Sound Theater

300 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572

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

Parish Matching Funds

St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Cathedral PHOENIX, AZ

St. Stephen Fall Festival

The parish's Fall Festival Event was open to families at St. Stephen and the public on Saturday, October 25, 2025. A fun day with games, food, activities and treats. Everyone had a great day. This was a successful fund raising event that also benefited from GCU Parish Matching Funds.



Ann Hill | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Fr. Michael Mandelas receives the GCU Matching Funds check from Parish Coordinator Ann Hill.

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church SCOTTDALE, PA

Christmas Craft Show

St. John Church hosted 34 crafters on Saturday, December 6, 2025. The parish sold homemade food, baked goods and a chance for a 50/50 raffle. The event's success was boosted by the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

Fr. Oleh Seremchuk | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church RAHWAY, NJ

"America the Beautiful" Trivia Night

Trivia Night was held at St. Thomas Parish on Saturday, October 25, 2025 and included a buffet-style dinner, dessert and beverages. Theme of the evening was America the Beautiful. Over 90 people attended and all enjoyed the challenging questions and good food. The event also qualified for GCU Parish Matching Funds.

David Brighthouse | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

SOLON, OH

Holiday Food Sale

A sale of homemade holiday cookies, nut & poppyseed rolls and kielbasa took place on Saturday, December 13, 2025.



Check Presentation

Two checks were presented to Peggy Hanigorsky from St. Mary Hospitality House Coordinator at their meal for the needy on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. One check

was from St. John Parish and one was the Matching Funds check from the GCU Holiday Food Bank Donation.

Daryl Hannes | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

HERMINIE, PA



Fall Fundraising

St. Mary Church held three fundraising events in the Fall of 2025. A Halloween Food Sale/Trunk or Treat took place on Saturday, October 25, 2025. A Candle and Pastry Sale was held on Saturday, November 22. Finally we joined the local community for the Light Up Night Parade on Saturday, December 6. The parish sold food to attendees

inside the church hall. All of the events qualified for GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Michael Pochan | Byzantine Catholic Church



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

KINGSTON, PA

Basket Raffle

St. Mary Church held a basket raffle with refreshments for all who participated. Baskets were donated by parishioners and local businesses. GCU Matching Funds were received for this very successful event. A



big thanks to Mary Ann Wright, for chairing the event and to Jack Wright and the Theresa & Stephen Kurilla family for their efforts and to everyone who bought tickets and donated to the event.

Laure Marcin | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

TRENTON, NJ



St. Nicholas Luncheon. St. Mary's coordinator for the St. Nicholas Luncheon Stephanie Hennessy, Administrator at St. Mary's Very Reverend Father Yuriy Oros and St. Mary's GCU Parish Coordinator Gregory Embley with Matching Funds check.

Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church

LIVONIA, MI



Father Márton Egressy's daughter, Abigel, pulling the winning ticket.

Raffle and Cookie Sale

Sacred Heart church decided to try something new this year to raise funds to help repay a loan from the Eparchy of Parma. A raffle and cookie sale was held on December 28, 2025 after the Divine Liturgy. The ticket stubs were placed in a bowl and the children of Father Márton Egressy pulled the winning first, second and third place winning tickets while Maryellen Gross, parish council member, held the bowl of ticket

stubs with parishioners waiting to see if they won. First place winner of \$2,000.00 was Brooke Montoya; second place winner of \$100.00 was Lori Charochak; third place winner of \$50.00 was Maryellen Gross. Sacred Heart parish thanks the GCU for their Parish Matching Funds program.

Marianne Nagrant | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Some of the delicious cookies.



Ss. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church

CARY, NC

St. Nicholas European Christmas Market

The 18th annual Ss. Cyril & Methodius European Christmas Market was held on Friday & Saturday, December 12-13, 2025 at the NC State Fairgrounds. The event attracted over 10,000 visitors. Singing, dancing, shopping and of course eating Slavic specialties such as holupki, pirohi, halushki, homemade sauerkraut and baked goods made for a beautiful celebration with entertainment throughout the day. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds program for adding to the church's success.

Michael Sapsara | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

BROWNSVILLE, PA



Dave Thearle.



Jean Mangini and Genevieve Marszal.

Pierogi Sales

During the months of November and December 2025, the parish held a Christmas pierogi sale. Thank you GCU for the Parish Matching Funds program.

Kenneth Haftman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Veronica Dirda, Jackie Dukar and Gloria Wheeler.



**St. Nicholas of Myra
Byzantine Catholic Church**
WHITE PLAINS, NY

Christmas Remembrance Tree

A live tree with angel cutouts made the Church extra beautiful this year. Names of living and deceased were written on angel figures and placed on the Christmas tree located in the front of the church. Parishioners made a \$2.00 donation for each angel purchased. The names were read at the Divine Liturgy in January. The tree fundraiser also received GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Ann Kachmar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

**Holy Trinity
Byzantine Catholic Church**
CONEMAUGH, PA

Annual Cash Bash

Holy Trinity Parish will once again hold its annual Cash Bash/GCU Matching Funds Event on April 11, 2026, from 6-9 PM. Tickets are available through members of the parish or by contacting Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083. Ticket includes a spaghetti dinner, 9 chances to win cash through the evening and additional raffles and qualifiers.

Georgia Lehman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church
TORONTO, OH

2025 Fall Potica Sale

The parish's annual Fall Potica Sale ran from September through November, 2025. Proceeds help to benefit our small parish to make purchases to improve the church. Thank you GCU for the Parish Matching Funds for this sale.

Nancy Doerr | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

**St. Nicholas of Myra
Byzantine Catholic Church**
ANCHORAGE, AK



Matching Funds check presentation. Pastor Fr. Vasyi Mutka with Parish Coordinator Oresta Mutka and event coordinator Judith Bich.

Christmas Bake Sale

St. Nicholas of Myra Church had a very successful Christmas Bake Sale on December 20, 2025. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents. Thank you also to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Oresta Mutka | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

**Ss. Peter & Paul
Byzantine Catholic Church**
PORTAGE, PA



Check Presentation: A GCU Matching Funds check for \$3,000.00 was presented to Fr. James Spontak by Parish Coordinator Deacon Dan Perich from the Ethnic Festival held by the parish.



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church SHEPPTON, PA

Victoria's Christmas Candy Sale

St. Mary Church enjoyed another successful Victoria's Christmas candy fund raiser. Pictured are President of Victoria's Candies Paul Esposito, Trustees of St. Mary's George & Andrea Andrews (Andrea is also the GCU Parish Coordinator) and Production Manager for Victoria's Candies David Petrone. Thank you to the GCU for approving this as a Parish Matching Funds event.

Andrea Andrews | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church PITTSBURGH, PA



The Steeler Tailgate Committee.



Bill Sacco holding Alexander.



Fr. Tyler Wisniewski accepts the Matching Funds check from Parish Coordinator John Niskach.

Annual Steelers Tailgate

"Bears Broke the Steel"-This Time! How do you spend a Sunday afternoon in November? Cheering on your favorite football team? That's just how 150 Steelers fans spent the afternoon at St. John Chrysostom Church in Ruska Dolina on Sunday, November 23. It was the Annual Steelers Tailgate. The good guys

were up against the Bears. In the end, Chicago won the game 31 to 28. But once a Steelers fan; always a Steelers fan!

This annual fundraising event did not disappoint. With over 40 baskets in the raffle; football pools; a beer pyramid and "Stock the Bar" baskets, there was something for everyone.

Desserts were plenty!

A special thank you to Fr. Andrew Deskevich who stepped in at the last minute for Fr. Tyler who was tackled early Sunday morning with a 24-hour bug. Fr. Andrew served the Divine Liturgy and offered the blessing of the food. We missed Fr. Tyler's enthusiasm, but his sister and his parents tried hard to make up for his absence. There's always next year!

Thank you to event Chair John Niskach. We are very grateful to the many supporters who donated their time, talent & treasure and to the many guests who made the afternoon so much fun! A special thank you to GCU Communications Director Basil Wahal and his team for their continued support.

Elizabeth Harbist



The crowd.

St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

COLUMBUS, OH

21st Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

On Saturday, December 13, St. John Chrysostom Parish held their 21st Annual Christmas Cookie Sale. After many days of parishioners baking nut & poppyseed rolls, Baklava, hundreds

of dozens of cookies and pirohi with four different fillings, it was time to set up the hall and open the doors. Over 300 customers came through and



The shoppers shown looking at all the different kinds of cookies that were available at the sale.

were thrilled with the variety of items to choose from. Thank you to all the parishioners who helped and the GCU Parish Matching Funds program for making this a very successful event.

Kathy Krofcheck | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish Coordinator Kathy Krofcheck and pastor of St. John Chrysostom Fr. Robert Jager.

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

ROEBLING, NJ



Very Reverend Fr. Yuriy Oros and Monica Olaff.

St. Nicholas Ethnic Food Sale

Parishioners, family and friends of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church once again came together for their annual ethnic food sale. Volunteers spent numerous days preparing pirohi, kielbasa, cabbage & noodles, chicken noodle & vegetable soups, as well as cookie boxes for the local parishes and community. Many thanks and appreciation for the leadership, dedication and countless hours to Monica Olaff for undertaking this monumental task with the result being an enormous success. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds program for the additional income from this fundraising project.

Carol Reichmann | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Hard working volunteers.

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

POCONO SUMMIT, PA

St. Nicholas Super Raffle

The Super Raffle event consisted of a Kitchen Appliance Raffle (6 Prize) Baskets, a Bucket of Cheer Raffle, a 50/50 Raffle as well as 3 different Tricky Tray Raffles and a "Guess How Many" Chocolate Coin Jar Raffle. Drawings were held at the end of the Parish's Patronal Feast Celebration on Sunday, December 7. All items were donated for the event. Thanks to the GCU for the additional income through the Parish Matching Funds program.

Alberta Folsome | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

DUNELLEN, NJ

Winter Pierogi Fundraiser

Thank you to the GCU Matching Funds program for supporting the annual pierogi fundraiser that was held on January 9 & 10, 2026 at St. Nicholas Church. Once again, we

sold out! The proceeds from the sale of 268 dozen pierogies and GCU Parish Matching Funds will help offset church expenses.

Margot Gumerlock | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Volunteers enjoy working together.



Check presentation to Fr. Thomas Paul Shubeck, PhD, Parish Trustee Deb Hoffman and Parish Coordinator Margot Gumerlock.



St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

PERTH AMBOY, NJ

St. Nicholas/St. Michael Churches Joint Christmas Luncheon

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church and St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church celebrated St. Nicholas Day on December 7, 2025. The children had a puppet show and sang many beautiful songs for the parish families. Each child had to say something special to St. Nick before receiving their gift. The day was filled with fun, laughter and great food.

Ann Marie Toscano | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Holy Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church

EUCLID, OH

Holiday Raffle

The annual Holiday Matching Funds raffle was a great success! Three lucky winners netted some extra holiday cash! Fr. Jan Maturkanic drew the prizes with the help of some of the children. 1st prize of \$1,000.⁰⁰ was won by Tom Seabright, 2nd prize of \$750.⁰⁰ was won by John Mazur and 3rd prize of \$500.⁰⁰ was won by Marty Mariner. Thank you GCU for the Parish Matching Funds for this event.

Patricia Comai | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

NEW YORK, NY

St. Nicholas Party and Raffle

St. Mary Church held its annual St. Nicholas Party and Raffle on Sunday, December 7. The event attracted 75 adults and 25 children and benefited from GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Fr. Edward Cimbala | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Falling for Philly

The Holy Ghost Church held their annual fundraiser on November 15, 2025. Pastor Fr. Vasyl Kopyn started the event with a blessing. Our Falling for Philly event was organized by Martha Dietz-Hanson and Katie Barron-Hopkins where various favorite foods of Philadelphia were served, while participants enjoyed 90 silent raffles, prizes and a local fan favorite the Philadelphia Phillies Phanatic. Fr. Vasyl Kopyn blessed him, as well. Thank you GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.



Father Vasyl Kopyn blessing Phillie Phanatic.

Edward Danovich | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Group Photo with Phillie Phanatic.

Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

NORTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Fourth Quarter Fundraising

Holy Ghost Church held a bake-less bake sale, 50/50 fundraiser and gift card raffle from October 25 through November 23, 2025. The total profits were \$2,558.⁵⁰. We thank the GCU Parish Matching Funds program in helping us raise money for the church's Boiler Fund Project.

Barbara Stecko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Father Frank Firko picks the winning ticket.

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

TAYLOR, PA

Turkey Bingo

The entire St. Mary Parish family gathered together on Sunday, November 9 to put on a Turkey Bingo Fundraiser. The afternoon was full of food, fellowship, bingo and raffles. All had fun, money was raised, and turkeys were handed out to all of the winners. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds program for the additional profit boost.



Fr. Eduard Shestak accepts the GCU Matching Funds check from Parish Coordinator Kelly Dougherty.

Kelly Dougherty | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The crowd at the Bingo.

St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

St. Nicholas Party

Annual holiday party/dinner celebrating the feast of St. Nicholas was held on Sunday, December 7. The event was also a GCU Parish Matching Funds event.

(Charles) Allan Hunt | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Bartenders Omar Ramos and John Magulick.



Check presentation to Fr. Evancho by Drew Greene and Laura Zigarevich.



Pastor Fr. Robert Evancho with visiting Syro Malabar Catholic Priest Fr. Joseph Olikkara.



Chris & Kristen Koscho, Mrs. Moss and Pat, Kristen & Ken Koscho.



Ivan Zigarevich, Drew Greene, Laura Zigarevich and Christopher Noth.



Attendees with a few of the basket raffle items.

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

MERRILLVILLE, IN

December Fundraisers

St. Michael Church held a Fish Fry fundraiser on Friday, December 12, 2025. The following week on Friday, December 19, the parish sponsored a Christmas Cookie Bake Sale. Both events benefited from additional income through the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

Jeanne Lazor | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

GREENSBURG, PA

Fourth Quarter Fundraising

St. Nicholas Parish held two fundraising events in the last quarter of 2025. The November Monthly Lottery Fundraiser and St. Nicholas Breakfast/Basket Raffle Events were enjoyed by parishioners. Both events benefited from the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

Fr. Vasy! Banyk | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

PATTON, PA



Fall Roll & Pierogi Sale

Parish members and friends volunteered two days in November making 560 nut rolls, 108 poppyseed rolls and 107 dozen pierogies. This fundraising event started decades ago and is still going strong today. All items were sold, with requests for extras coming in late. We have truly been blessed. Thanks GCU for the Parish Matching Funds from this event.

Brian Soyka | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Nativity of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

DUBOIS, PA

Weekly Bingo

Nativity of Mary church held a weekly bingo along with sales of small games of chance throughout 2025. Profits from the fundraising effort also benefited from the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

Grace Marshall | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church

HOMER GLEN, IL

Annunciation Grand Raffle

In December of 2025, the parish sold 330 raffle tickets at \$100.00 a ticket with prizes totaling \$15,000.00 available to the winners. We thank the GCU for the additional income through the Parish Matching Funds program.

Ken Krown | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish Coordinator Ken Krown spins the tickets while many wait for the winners to be drawn.

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church NESQUEHONING, PA

St. Mary's Food Sale

A pre-order ethnic food sale took place on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. Holupki, haluski and rice pudding were sold. The sale also benefited from GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Mary McKee | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



GCU Matching Funds check presentation to Rev. Dr. Vasyl Chepelskyy by the kitchen workers from the parish's Stuffed Cabbage Dinner.



St. Jude Byzantine Catholic Church ERNEST, PA



St. Jude Pop Up 2nd Saturday Yard Sale

St. Jude Church held 2nd Saturday Pop Up Yard Sales during the months of June through December. Many items were donated and many items were sold. Some of the customers also came back with donated items to add to the sale. We are looking forward to opening up again in the spring.



Check Presentation

Monica Kowalski, Isabelle Little and Addy Little are shown presenting the GCU Matching Funds check to pastor of St. Jude Father Vasyl Kadar from the Yard Sales.

Patricia Yamrick | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Byzantine Catholic Church

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Eastern European Food Festival

OLPH parish hosted a Eastern European Food Festival featuring: kielbasa, holupki, halushki, pirohi, kapusta, various breads, soups and homemade baked goods. The event also had church tours and religious articles for sale.

Parish Reader & GCU Parish Coordinator Joseph Bernard presents Father Alex Shuter with a check for \$3,000.00 representing the GCU Parish Matching Funds for the very successful Food Festival. Mr. Mark Liedl, festival chairman and Mrs. Valentyna Sonmezler, head of the Ukrainian Victory Kitchen who supported the Festival, are at Father's left. They are surrounded by many of the parishioners who worked at the festival.



Joseph Bernard | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

WILKES-BARRE, PA

Holiday Baking Project

On December 1, 2025, St. John parish held a baking project and sale. Parishioners and friends of the parish gathered to make nut, poppyseed, lekvar and apricot rolls to help raise funds and strengthen fellowship among members and visitors at St. John Church. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds program for supporting this effort.

Ivanna Prodanets | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church JESSUP, PA

Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

The Holy Ghost Annual Chicken Dinner fundraiser served 460 "take out dinners" to parishioners and the local community. Many thanks to those who made it a success including the preparers, the cooks and those who distributed the "take-out" orders. The event also qualified for GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Greg Barkowski | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish Coordinator Greg Barkowski presenting Fr. Tim Kennedy with the GCU Matching Funds check.



St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church CAMPBELL, OH

Reverse Raffle

Tickets were pre-sold for the parish's annual reverse raffle event and a night out with dinner. GCU members aided in selling tickets, set up, event night and clean up. Thanks GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Ed Stanko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church GIBSONIA, PA

Annual Pirohi Project

St. Andrew Parish held its annual pirohi project and church fundraiser in the spring and again in the fall of 2025. The parish sells pirohi to assist with expenses at our church. Tasia Bobish and Karen Power organized the sale. Thank you GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Cathy Hruska | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





Front row: Debbi Karnoupakis, Tommy Charnie, Marilyn Charnie, Mary Kohelis, Alexandra Melonas, Argiro Latousakis and Iris Banketas. Back row: Dianne Kohelis, Stacie Upright and Connie Mastromichalis.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FLUSHING, NY

Anniversary of the Founding of the Parish/Christmas Dinner

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Orthodox Parish was showered with love and devotion on its anniversary dinner held on Sunday, November 23. Thirty-three parishioners and friends from afar celebrated the church's special day. Dinner and raffle baskets helped support repairs to the roof. Our church family also enjoyed hearing about the highlights of the church's history. Thanks to the GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds program for the additional income for this event.

Christine Hulak

All Saints Philoptochos Society

WEIRTON, WV

Holiday Bake Sale & Check Presentation

The All Saints Philoptochos Society received a GCU Matching Funds check from GCU members Marilyn Charnie and her son Tommy Charnie. The Society fund raising holiday bake sale featured items included: Baklava, Finika, Halva, Karithopita, Koulourakia, Kourambiethes and Fudge. Thanks to the GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds Grant for boosting profits from this event.

Marilyn E. Charnie

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

FLUSHING, NY

St. Nicholas Luncheon

The annual St. Nicholas Name Day Luncheon was held on Sunday, December 7, 2025. The day began with a visit from St. Nicholas who brought presents for all the children.

The delicious catered shrimp scampi lunch that followed put everyone in good spirits. Following lunch, we had a fun afternoon of activities with winners of the trivia game, Christmas riddles, holiday bingo and pictogram puzzles receiving festive holiday pens for prizes. Then, everyone enthusiastically joined in singing favorite Christmas carols.

Another highlight of the afternoon was our basket raffle. This year, we raffled off forty-five baskets brimming with fabulous prizes. All in all, it was a

fun-filled afternoon.

Profits from the event will go toward church repairs. The very generous Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds grant from the GCU is much appreciated and will be put to good use. Many thanks to the GCU for its generosity and support.

Laura Muhlfeld



GCU Supported Parish Events



St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

OLD FORGE, PA

St. Nicholas Day Party

St. Nicholas visited the parishioners of St. Nicholas of Myra Church at their annual feast day celebration on Sunday, December 7. St. Nicholas was kind enough to bring a gift for all the children in attendance. The parish would like to thank the GCU Parish Social Grant for contributing to this event. GCU's support played an important role in making the event possible and ensuring a meaningful and enjoyable experience for all in attendance.

Maria Calogero | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

BALTIMORE, MD

A Busy End To 2025

Grandparents Day. Parish grandparents were remembered during Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 7, and afterwards were treated to decorated cakes. "Grandparents are proud of their grandchildren, just as children are proud of their parents" (Proverbs 17:6).

Veterans Day. Fr. Vasyl Symyon celebrated a Veterans Day Commemoration for living and deceased veterans during Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 9. A

special thank you to all veterans for your service to our country.

Christmas Cookie Social. On December 21, 2025, parishioners enjoyed an assortment of cookies prior to the youth's practicing for the annual Christmas Eve Nativity Program, which included hymns and scripture readings.

End of the Year Parish Social. The parishioners of Patronage of the Mother of God Church thank God for all of the blessings they received in 2025. Everyone enjoyed an

assortment of pastries and bagels for the last social of the year.

Patronage Parish very much appreciates the generous support of the GCU Parish Social Grant for making all of these events possible. Very Rev. Vasyl Symyon is the Administrator of Patronage Church.

Dennis Kotula | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church

CARRICK, PA



End-of-Year Holiday Sweets

The GCU Parish Social Grant was used for a surprise end of year sweet treat for all members in attendance at Sunday Liturgy on December 28. As people left the church, a bowl of chocolate candy was

there for all to enjoy.

Kim Kolesar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

MERRILLVILLE, IN

Volunteers Treated

Parish members enjoyed a social gathering after volunteering at the church. The GCU Parish Social Grant provided funding for the social.

Jeanne Lazor | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

HOUSTON, TX

St. Nicholas Celebration

A visit from St. Nicholas and Sunday luncheon were held at St. John Chrysostom Church on Sunday, December 7, 2025. Gifts for the children and the luncheon were provided by funds from the GCU Parish Social program.



Theresa Dancsak | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church

LIVONIA, MI

Advent Tea

The Ladies of Sacred Heart held their first Advent Tea on Saturday, December 6. It was an opportunity for the women to socialize before the Christmas rush increased. It was a wonderful gathering.



Visit From St. Nicholas

The GCU worked as helpers of St. Nicholas when he visited Sacred Heart parish on December 7, 2025. The ECF students placed their shoes under a Christmas tree in the hall before the Divine Liturgy. During the service, St. Nicholas, with the help of the GCU Parish Social Grant, placed candy and small gifts in their shoes. After the Liturgy and the singing of "O Who Loves Nicholas the Saintly" in English, Slavonic and Hungarian, St. Nicholas entered the hall and gave additional gifts to each individual student. The GCU Parish Social Grant program is much appreciated.



Marianne Nagrant | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church SWOYERSVILLE, PA



Saint Nicholas Luncheon

After Liturgy on Sunday, December 7, all in attendance went to the church hall and were treated to a hot meal, coffee, tea, soda and desserts. Saint Nicholas also made an appearance—the children had pictures taken with him and were given gifts. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for making this event possible.



John Barilla | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Jude Byzantine Catholic Church ERNEST, PA

St. Nicholas Gifts & Fr. Kadar's Birthday

St. Nicholas Day traditional giving of gifts was held at St. Jude Byzantine Catholic Church on Sunday, December 7. Two icons were purchased for St. Jude Byzantine Catholic Church - St. Nicholas and St. Michael and Synaxis of the Archangels which were presented to Fr. Kadar. It also was Father's birthday. Parishioners wished him a happy birthday and sang God Grant Him Many Years after Divine Liturgy.



Fr. Kadar with his birthday cake.



Theresa Fredrick and Monica Kowalski presenting Father Kadar the two icons (St. Michael and the Heavenly Hosts and Saint Nicholas) for the church.



Coffee Social

The parishioners of St. Jude enjoyed sweet rolls and muffins from Riziki Café on Sunday, December 28. Thank you GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with these events.

Patricia Yamrick | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church

LAS VEGAS, NV

Coffee Social

Coffee socials were held after Liturgy on Sunday, December 7 and on Sunday, December 28. Parishioners and guests enjoyed the fellowship and thank the GCU Parish Social Grant for the support.



Robert Rosales | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

UNIONTOWN, PA

Christmas Coffee Social

St. John's GCU sponsored a Christmas coffee social after the Saturday evening Divine Liturgy on Saturday December 20, all in attendance enjoyed great food and fellowship.



Members enjoying the holiday coffee social.

Altar Server Thank You

On Sunday, December 28, St. John the Baptist parish treated the Altar



Servers to a Christmas thank you. Each altar server received a gift card to a local restaurant as a thank you for their work throughout the year. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with these events.

Stephen Petruska Jr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Above-back row: Parish Coordinator Stephen Petruska, Lucas Mihalko, Fr. Kyprian Wojciechowski and Joseph Mihalko. Front row: Noah & Ryan Mihalko. At right, Steven Popson, Fr. Kyprian Wojciechowski and Mark Jesko. Absent is Jace Bolish.



NOTE: Fr. Kyprian Wojciechowski was misidentified in the December Magazine, we apologize for the error.



Xavier Perfilio, Theo Wiestling, Sophia Julian, Peyton Lutkowski, Terry Miller, Evalyn Shander, Clayton Barkowski, Rosalina Walter, Lena Harvey, Carl Lutkowski Jr., Lena Barkowski, and "The Elf" Michaela Mancak.

Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

JESSUP, PA

Religious Ed Christmas Gifts

An "elf" representing the GCU surprised the children at their Christmas ECF/Religious Education Party on Sunday, December 21, 2025 with a visit and gift bags. They also sang traditional Christmas Carols in anticipation of our Savior's birth.

Michaela Mancak

Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Advent Retreat with Fr. Jerome Wolbert

Ascension of Our Lord hosted Fr. Jerome Wolbert who presented a day-long Advent Retreat, “*St. Philip’s Fast and the Nativity*” on Saturday, November 15, 2025. Parishioners and visitors enjoyed his interactive presentation exploring Scripture, hymns, carols and prayers of the Byzantine Catholic Church as we prepared for the birth of our Lord. Thanks in part, to the support of the GCU Parish Social Grant Program.



Patricia Duttry | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

PITTSTON, PA

Christmas Events

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church held its annual Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, December 14 for parishioners with special Christmas treats for the children.

The annual Christmas Concert took place on Sunday, December 28. The evening included traditional Ukrainian Christmas music performed by the choir of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church. A combined choir from St. Michael and St. Nicholas of Swoyersville, PA performed Carpatho-Rusyn style carols as well. The evening also included a live Nativity starring the parish children and refreshments.

Nancy Stout | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church

CONEMAUGH, PA

Covered Dish Social

On December 24, following evening Divine Liturgy, a covered dish was held in the church social hall. This annual event was hosted by the GCU parish coordinator, and members were asked to bring something to share. The GCU Parish Social Grant provided sandwiches and drinks for the event. Our monthly social hour will continue with the support of the GCU Social Grant providing funds to offset the costs of these events.

Georgia Lehman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

MINERSVILLE, PA



St. Nicholas Day Breakfast

Members of Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Parish enjoyed a breakfast following Sunday Divine Liturgy to celebrate St. Nicholas Day. Children received a gift from St. Nicholas and parishioners welcomed visiting priest, Father John Cigan.



Theophany Holy Supper

Pastor Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga and the parish Synodal Advisory Board decided to hold a Theophany “Holy Supper” on January 6, 2026, followed by Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of Water. Parishioners made traditional dishes of pirohi, soups and fish. All enjoyed the food and fellowship while reminiscing of past family “Holy Suppers.” Thank you, GCU Parish Social Grant for supporting both of these parish gatherings.

Dolores Kramer | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Ascension Byzantine Catholic Church

CLAIRTON, PA

Steeler Game Snacks

Ascension Church began the Steeler playoff celebration early with everyone receiving a Steeler cup filled with treats to be ready for the big game on Monday, January 12. Alas, the cups did not bring any luck to the team, though everyone could drown their sorrows with the sweet treats! Thanks GCU Parish Social Grant for the funding.



Trish Roberts | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Anne Byzantine Catholic Church

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

Church Gatherings Throughout the Year

Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant, St. Anne Parish was able to provide treats to the parishioners throughout the year. There were lunch and pizza for volunteers during Pascha Baking Day Lunch, Church Work Day, pre-church festival work, set-up for Bishop Artur’s visit and Christmas Baking day. Parishioners also enjoyed St. John the Baptist BBQ and water games, Acolyte Training & Party and St. Nicholas Feast-chocolates passed out to the children by St. Nicholas the Bishop.

Christina Aguirre | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church SCRANTON, PA

Monthly Birthday Celebrations

St. John's started a monthly celebration for parishioner's birthdays. On October 1 we celebrated 4 parishioners who had October birthdays. Following our Divine Liturgy on December 7, we had a birthday cake for our parishioner, Sharon Gallagher, who celebrated her birthday on December 25. We also conducted a short meeting to finalize the plans for our kolache baking project the weekend of December 14.

Luncheon for Volunteers

A light luncheon was served on Tuesday, November 18 to our many volunteers who helped us with our Christmas project. All of these activities were made possible by the GCU Parish Social Grant program.

Karen Duricko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church SMITHTOWN, NY

Luncheon with St. Nick

Parishioners decorated the social hall for hosting a luncheon with St. Nicholas. The children's choir was invited to sing to St. Nick. Then a buffet lunch followed and was enjoyed by all thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant.

Joanne Marcus | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. John Byzantine Catholic Church WILKES-BARRE, PA

Clean-Up Supplies

On December 1, 2025, parishioners and friends of the parish gathered to make rolls to help raise funds for St. John Church. A big thank you to GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with the purchase of laundry detergent used to wash towels/aprons after the baking project.

Ivanna Prodanets | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

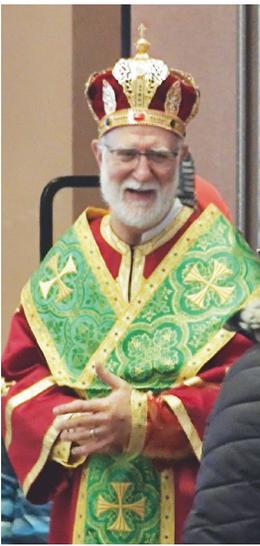
St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA

Celebration of Saint Stephen Feast Day

After the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 28, 2025, the parish family of St. Stephen Church gathered in the church hall to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint. A delicious buffet was prepared by Jaden's Catering. The buffet was made possible by the generous parish social program of the GCU!

Connie Kacey-Smith | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





Holy Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church

EUCLID, OH

St. Nicholas Celebration

St. Nick (Bob Fetsko) came to visit Holy Resurrection parish on Sunday, December 7. GCU helped out by providing funds for the gifts through the Parish Social Grant. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the gathering.

Patricia Comai | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

BRADENVILLE, PA

St. Nicholas Celebration

St. Mary Parish children were treated to a light breakfast and gifts from St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 7.

Parents and other adults assembled to decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas celebration. Thank you GCU Parish Social Grant for supporting this event.

Sue Snyder | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church

PITTSBURGH, PA

Christmas Social

On December 21, 2025, GCU and church members gathered in the church auditorium following Sunday morning Liturgy. The auditorium was decorated for Christmas with a festive atmosphere of Christmas carols playing.

The social started with a buffet lunch; special thanks to the Pavlick Family for donating a baked ham and macaroni & cheese. Several chances to win a holiday prize were offered: the Left-Right game, birthday closest to Christmas Day, holiday trivia and door prizes.

Many compliments were received on this fun day. The GCU Parish Social Grant assisted with funding for the social.

Kim Kolesar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

ANCHORAGE, AK

St. Nicholas Day

On Sunday, December 7, children of St. Nicholas Parish and Holy Rosary Academy were happy to see St. Nicholas and to receive a gift from him. Once again thank you GCU for your financial support through the Parish Social Grant program.

Oresta Mutka | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Feast Day Dinner & St. Nicholas Feast Day Party

Everyone enjoyed the St. John the Baptist feast day dinner and the St. Nicholas Party. Thank you GCU Parish Social Grant for helping the parish celebrate together for these events.

Sandra Ferrance | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

ROEBLING, NJ & TRENTON, NJ

Feast of St. Nicholas Celebration

On Sunday December 7, 2025, the parishes of St. Nicholas and The Assumption of the Virgin Mary came together to celebrate the arrival of St. Nicholas. Pastor Very Reverend Father Yuriy Oros began with a beautiful Divine Liturgy complete with the joyous singing of our children's choir. This was immediately followed by a bountiful feast and fellowship enjoyed by more than 130 parishioners, family and friends. Once again, the children's choir was prominent in singing "O Kto Kto" in welcoming St. Nicholas who visited each child and presented them with gifts. The day was an enormous success as all seemed to enjoy the food, music and community. Many thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for helping to make it happen.

Carol Reichmann | St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Gregory Embley | Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

BRECKSVILLE, OH

St. Nicholas Potluck

Candy was purchased for children's gift bags with funds from the GCU Parish Social Grant. The bags were distributed at the St. Nicholas Potluck on Sunday, December 7, 2025.

Nancy Fredrick | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

LANSFORD, PA

Annual Christmas Dinner

On Saturday, December 13, St. John Byzantine Church celebrated Christmas with an annual dinner compliments of the generous GCU Parish Social Grant program.

Susan Seaver | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The Baking Crew.

St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

Community Kolache Baking Project

The Women of Faith Ministry of St. Gregory's held three "Community Kolache Baking" sessions on November 3, 11 and 19 in preparation for the annual Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale set for December 6. An important ingredient was the fellowship and camaraderie we all enjoyed during our "coffee breaks." Many thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for funding the snacks that kept us rolling, filling, baking and packing the Kolache and cleaning up the church kitchen!

St. Nicholas Day Parish Brunch

A winter storm on December 14, 2025 did not stop St. Nicholas from visiting St. Gregory Parish. He was given an enthusiastic and warm welcome by the children as the faithful sang "O who loves Nicholas the Saintly." The celebration continued in our church

hall with St. Nicholas distributing gifts to all the children. Bethany Ministry members were also busy preparing Christmas gift bags for our homebound parishioners that were delivered to them. Following all the activity, everyone enjoyed fellowship and a delicious breakfast buffet prepared by St. Gregory Men's Club. Sincere thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant Program for

funding this celebration for all the parishioners.

Dorothy Mayernik | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Bethany Ministry: Barbara Stasiuk, Dorothy Mayernik, Jennifer Kehm, John Tomko, deRicci Horwatt and Kathy Kranack.



Men's Club cooks: Tom Webb, Ken Coval, Deacon Michael George, Matt Pete and Tom Prokop.



St. Nick, Fr. Val with the kids.

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church TAYLOR, PA

Parish Pot-Luck Social

St. Mary Parish celebrated its Patronal Feast Day on Sunday, September 7. This special day was marked with a Pot-Luck Dinner after Divine Liturgy. Parishioners from both St. Mary and St. Nicholas were invited to come together to attend this beautiful dinner in honor of Our Blessed Mother.

Christmas Concert

A Christmas concert was held at St. Mary Church on December 21 featuring Slavonic and Traditional Christmas Carols. It was a great way to celebrate the



joyous Christmas season. There was a reception for all after the concert. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for providing funding for these events.

Kelly Dougherty | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church HOMER GLEN, IL

Annunciation Agape

On Sunday November 23, 2025 after Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Church, the GCU Parish Coordinator hosted an agape for our parish.



Christmas on the Prairie

On Saturday, December 13, Annunciation parish hosted their annual Christmas on the Prairie. This

is a community wide event with crafts and baked goods. The highlight was when Saint Nicholas came to meet the children and bring them treat bags. It was a wonderful event.

Visit From Bishop Robert Pipta

In December 2025, Bishop Robert Pipta blessed Annunciation Church with a visit. On Sunday after Divine Liturgy Bishop Robert shared a potluck luncheon with us and spent time giving a talk and answering questions.

Annunciation parishioners are grateful to the GCU Parish Social Grant for providing the funds to make all of these events possible.

Ken Krown | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA



Donut Sunday

Parishioners enjoyed Sunday coffee & donut socials throughout the year. They would like to thank the GCU Parish Social Grant for these opportunities to enjoy the fellowship and treats.

Julie Brocius | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church FLUSHING, MI

St. Nicholas Celebration

St. Nicholas filled shoes with candy and helped children find coins in hay at the parish St. Nicholas event on Sunday, December 7. A breakfast buffet was served for all in attendance with everyone bringing their favorite cookies to share. The GCU Parish Social Grant funded the candy and food. A great time was had by all.

Pat Chartier | Byzantine Parish
Coordinator



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church LEVITTOWN, PA

St. Nicholas Social / Children's Christmas Crafts

A St. Nicholas social and children's Christmas craft was held on Sunday, December 7, 2025 after the 9 AM Divine Liturgy. The parish was honored to have St. Nicholas visit with all the parishioners in attendance. St. Nicholas joyfully greeted them, giving the children gold coins and kindly taking photos with everyone. The parishioners, young and old, were excited to meet St. Nicholas, some for the first time. A wonderful gathering with the parishioners followed with delicious



food and good conversation. Our heartfelt thanks to our parishioners, Alex & JoAnne Zidock and the GCU Parish Social Grant for their help in providing the gold coins, food and the supplies for the children's Christmas craft.

Anna Maria Macinsky | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

LYNDORA, PA

St. Nicholas Eve

Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for providing chocolate coins for our children. St. Nicholas made his annual visit to St. John Parish during the Vigil Liturgy on December 5. There were also desserts enjoyed by all.



Theophany Eve Supper

The annual Theophany Eve supper was well attended after the 6 PM Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 5. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for purchasing the fish which was enjoyed by all.

John Pocchiari | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

WINDBER, PA

St. Nicholas Christmas Party

A St. Nicholas Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 7 for the families of the parish. A big thank you to the GCU Social Program for sponsoring this event. The children of the parish enjoyed their visit with St. Nicholas.

Theresa Valko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Final Church Cleanup

The final day of cleanup before the 125th Anniversary Celebration was a busy one. The inside of the church was completed and the church yard maintenance was addressed. Volunteers then sat down to a well-deserved meal of appetizers, sandwiches, salads, desserts and beverages thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant.

Beverley Rebovich | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Dormition Parish/Cathedral of St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

CLEVELAND, OH

St. Nicholas Visit and Brunch

The parish was invited for a St. Nicholas visit and brunch on Sunday, December 7. Children visited St. Nick and each received a gift from him. All parishioners enjoyed a lovely brunch and adults were given a free raffle ticket for a chance to win one of 10 poinsettia plants. Brunch was enjoyed by all thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant.

Rosemary Trompak | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Fr. Don Bolls as St. Nick with Tobias and his parents Andy and Alaina.

Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church

Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church

MONROEVILLE & WALL, PA

St. Nicholas Celebration

Members of Resurrection & Holy Trinity Churches joined together on Saturday, December 6 to honor St. Nicholas who came to Holy Trinity Church with gifts for all. Thanks to all of the helpers that set up at Holy Trinity in Wall for the party and thank you GCU for the Parish Social Funding.

Thomas Oslick Sr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Members of Holy Trinity decorating team from left to right: Linda Oslick, Vickie Janik, Charles Betz, Carol Ribnicky, Paulette Federis-ko, Mike & Debbie Magnes, Fr. Don Bolls and BPC Tom Oslick.

Saint Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

DUNMORE, PA



Saint Nicholas Visit/ Social and Angel Tree

Saint Michael Church held its annual Saint Nicholas visit and social on Sunday, December 7. Parishioners enjoyed a variety of breakfast treats and beverages thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant. All parish children received gift bags from Saint Nicholas. Parishioners in local nursing homes also received gifts from Saint Nicholas and from other parishioners (donations).

Jennifer Dunda | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Andrew the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

GIBSONIA, PA



Annual Parish Picnic

St. Andrew's annual parish picnic was held Sunday, September 7, 2025.



St. Nicholas Social

St. Andrew held their St. Nicholas social later in December due to the Seminary fundraiser and bad weather the weekend of the original date. The potluck social included a visit by St. Nicholas for the children.



Cathy Hruska sending out cards for the shut-ins.

Social Outreach for Shut-ins

St. Andrew created a new program to provide outreach and inclusion for our shut-ins who are not able to attend our social functions. Parishioners complete greeting cards including small personal notes which are sent to the shut-ins for Lent, Advent and on their birthdays. Parishioners sign up to send out cards each month for this social outreach to shut-ins.

The GCU Parish Social Grant was used to fund all of these events.

Cathy Hruska | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

GREENSBURG, PA

St. Nicholas Celebration

St. Nick parish held a Moleben and dinner on Sunday, December 7 to celebrate St. Nicholas. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for funding the event. Everyone in attendance had an enjoyable time.

Fr. Vasyly Banyk | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Cathedral

PHOENIX, AZ

St. Nicholas Dinner

The annual St. Nicholas celebration dinner for families at St. Stephen Cathedral was held on Saturday, December 6. Skits about St. Nicholas and the Nativity were presented by the ECF students. A visit from St. Nicholas in traditional bishop's vestments was enjoyed by all! Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for funding this event.

Ann Hill | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

BEAVERDALE, PA; DUNLO, PA & PORTAGE, PA

Social Happenings

Annual Breakfast. Parishioners of Ss. Peter & Paul church (Portage), gathered together after the morning Liturgy on September 28 for their annual breakfast, prepared by the dedicated parishioners.

Joint Christmas Dinner. St. Mary (Beaverdale) and Ss. Peter & Paul (Dunlo) were able to gather together to enjoy a wonderful Italian Feast at Rizzo's Restaurant and



Christmas Dinner.

afterwards present each parishioner with a box of treats from a local candy shop.

St. Nicholas Social. Parishioners at Ss. Peter & Paul church (Portage) gathered after Liturgy on Sunday, December 21 to welcome St. Nicholas to their parish. The children received treats and wonderful refreshments were served.

All of these events were made possible by the GCU Parish Social Grant—thank you!

Deacon Daniel Perich | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Annual Breakfast.



Christmas Dinner.

Nativity of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ



St. Nicholas Party

A fantastic St. Nicholas event was held on Sunday, December 7. All who attended had a wonderful time. We could not have done it without the help of the GCU Parish Social Grant—thank you and God bless.

Maryann Szticza | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

NORTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Holiday Treats

Parishioners enjoyed an after Liturgy treat to celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Sunday, December 7, 2025. After Christmas Liturgy the parishioners and guests were given

chocolate angels and Christmas tree treats. Both events were provided by the GCU Parish Social Grant program. Thanks to the GCU for providing this wonderful program.



Leslie Bodnarchuk, Carol Lipchick and Barbara Stecko.



Parishioner Mary Ann Smoley with Barbara Stecko.



Barbara Stecko with St Nick.

Barbara Stecko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

LORAIN, OH

St. Nicholas Celebration

St. Nicholas Parish celebrated St. Nicholas Day on December 6, 2025. Following the Divine Liturgy parishioners went to a local banquet hall for a catered dinner. The group sang carols, played a St. Nicholas game and the children did crafts. The evening ended with the annual visit from St. Nicholas (Bruce Szibo). He greeted guests and invited the children to visit and receive gift bags provided by funds from the GCU Parish Social Grant. It was a great

gathering to celebrate our patron saints feast day.

Gift bags were given out with a St. Nicholas coloring/puzzle booklet with crayons or colored pencils, various treats and some small Christmas gifts.



Appreciation Dinner

An appreciation dinner for the St. Nicholas Church council members was held on January 3, 2026. Council members attended the Saturday Divine Liturgy together and then enjoyed a delicious dinner before the first meeting of the new year. It was a great way to have some fun downtime and fueled discussion about plans for 2026. We thank the GCU Parish Social Grant for sponsoring the dinner and truly appreciate all the hard work provided by the church council members.



Anne Dillon | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

November-December Events

Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant St. Therese Parish enjoyed several events to close out the year. A Coffee Social was held after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 30.

On Sunday, December 14, Christmas ornament decorating for our younger parishioners was enjoyed by all who attended. Holiday snacks were also served.

The GCU Southeast Regional VP Jim Grauel Jr. paid a visit to St. Therese parish to offer information on GCU products and to discuss the fraternal aspect of GCU. There was a nice turnout for the event.

(Charles) Allan Hunt | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Ornament decorating.



Coffee social.



Agent Jim Grauel Jr. talking to the crowd about GCU products.



St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

BROWNSVILLE, PA

St. Nicholas Parish Dinner

The St. Nicholas parish held a dinner on Sunday, December 7, 2025. The food was purchased through the GCU Parish Social Grant program. Victor Dirda prepared delicious food for the event. Door prizes were purchased and chocolate truffles given as favors.

Kenneth Haftman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



For Your Information

Events

Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Great Lent Vesper Schedule

1st Sunday, February 22, 2026

St. John Chrysostom BC Church
506 Saline Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

2nd Sunday, March 1, 2026

Holy Spirit BC Church
4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

3rd Sunday, March 8, 2026

Holy Ghost BC Church
225 Olivia Street, McKees Rocks, PA 15136

4th Sunday, March 15, 2026

Ss. Peter and Paul BC Church
431 George Street, Braddock, PA 15104

5th Sunday, March 22, 2026

St. Pius X BC Church
2336 Brownsville Road,
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

3:30 PM-Sacrament of Reconciliation

4 PM-Vespers

Followed by a social hour focused on a meager meal of fast-friendly meatless soup.

National Bowling Tournament

Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16, 2026

Meadows Lanes
(located within Hollywood Casino)
210 Racetrack Road, Washington, PA 15301
724-503-1550

Lodging at Hyatt Place Hollywood Casino & Racetrack Pittsburgh South Hotel is attached to the Meadows Complex 1-888-257-9658 mention: code G-FSBW

Lodging at DoubleTree by Hilton Meadowlands Offers shuttle to and from Hollywood Casino everyday until midnight 724-222-6200 mention: Fraternal Bowling Tournament

Applications are available in the Events Section of the GCU Website or will be mailed by request.

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 20,500 copies, the cookbook has entered its 22nd printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$6.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$20.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$38.⁰⁰ (\$14 + \$24 postage) U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM please leave a message) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



Broadway Musical "Wicked"

CONTINUED from page 18



Penguins Hockey Game

CONTINUED from page 18



Deceased Members

(State Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8309 Herman Abels—Clermont, FL
8341 Laverne Ackerman—Milford, OH
8354 Joanne Aheimer—Hampton, VA
8344 Robert Ahlin—Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Gordon Andersen—Plymouth Meeting, PA
8358 William Bahr—Stratford, WI
8304 Cynthia Barbat—San Diego, CA
8344 June E. Barndt—Hamburg, PA
8313 Helen J. Baron—Joliet, IL
8344 Carol A. Bayer—Stroudsburg, PA
8344 Dorothy J. Bertolino—Indiana, PA
8344 Helen Best—McKees Rocks, PA
8335 Judith A. Blagojevic—Erial, NJ
8302 Gordon K. Blanz—Tucson, AZ
8358 Steven Breher—Plymouth, WI
8358 Janet Brickner—Auburndale, WI
8344 Velda J. Brown—Brownsville, PA
8302 Thelma M. Bryan—Tempe, AZ
8302 Lowell Byall—Phoenix, AZ
8341 Vera G. Cain—Salem, OH
8344 Lorrain M. Caperton—McAdoo, PA
8302 Lotrevious Carl—Canton, GA
8344 Rose M. Carlin—New Castle, PA
8344 Esker D. Casto—Rochester, PA
8309 Dylyce P. Clarke—Cocoa, FL
8344 Robert F. Corson—Pottsville, PA
8344 Larry Croston—Beaver Falls, PA
8310 Irene Cummings—Augusta, GA
8344 Mark J. Cushner—Hallstead, PA
8344 Barbara A. Czeczely—Canonsburg, PA
8349 Patricia Ann Daly—Pasadena, TX
8309 Jennifer DeCarlo—Miami, FL
8344 Colleen Dee—Northern Cambria, PA
8309 Harry R. Dee—Palm Coast, FL
8302 Daniel Dewey—Tucson, AZ
8358 Carol L. Domkowski—Neenah, WI
8344 William Donley—Beaver Falls, PA
8344 Michele M. Douglas—Canonsburg, PA
8304 William A. Dubensky—Flushing, MI
8359 Jay F. Dunbar—Greensboro, NC
8344 Marian M. Easterly—Allentown, PA
8304 Catharine Ebsen—Thousand Oaks, CA
8326 Edward J. Fedorka—Concord, MI
8309 John Ferguson—Clearwater, FL
8344 Catherine Ferrari—Monaca, PA
8344 Donald Keith Fiedler—Aliquippa, PA
8344 Henry T. Foxwell—Harleysville, PA
8344 Angeline T. Fraser—Philadelphia, PA
8309 Phyllis E. French—Oldsmar, FL
8344 Eva G. Funk—New Castle, PA
8326 Norman F. Furness—Port Huron, MI
8344 Stanley B. Gieniec—Nesquehoning, PA
8359 Grady Goodman—Connelly Springs, NC
8344 George I. Greene—Bethlehem, PA
8344 Leota M. Gromley—Indiana, PA
8344 Ronald J. Guatell—Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Mary Gurcak—Pittsburgh, PA
8344 L. Robert Henry—New Brighton, PA
8359 Johnny E. Holden—Charlotte, NC
8344 Nancy Holgash—Beaverdale, PA
8357 Charles A. Hughes—Crawley, WV
8326 Kathleen J. Jacobs—Indian River, MI
8315 Timothy B. Jones—Crown Point, IN
8358 Earl J. Joswiak—Stratford, WI
8344 Joseph Juliano—Harleysville, PA
8344 Ned R. Kelso—Chambersburg, PA
8358 Donald D. Kempf—Milwaukee, WI
8326 Ronald J. Kerr—Lewiston, MI
8344 Gary F. Kistler—Rector, PA
8344 Jewell Knappenberger—Apollo, PA
8344 Julie Knox—Indiana, PA
8302 Michael T. Kol—Sun City West, AZ
8341 Dorothy Ann Kotyuha—Ashland, OH
8341 John Krajnik—Moreland Hills, OH
8344 Theresa Krawczyk—Koppel, PA
8357 Cheryl J. Krumenacker—Follansbee, WV
8344 Mary E. Kughn—New Brighton, PA
8344 Ann M. Kusbit—Cheswick, PA
8344 Jean V. Kveragas—Dunmore, PA
8344 Dorothy Lancos—Aliquippa, PA
8344 Concetta Leary—Kent, OH
8358 Carol E. Lee—Reedsburg, WI
8344 Mary Fay Levendusky—Lehighon, PA
8304 Bernice Lutchko—Chula Vista, CA
8344 Mary Lutz—Avonmore, PA
8354 Eleanor Macurak—Culpeper, VA
8344 Lucy Ann Mallick—Sharpsville, PA
8344 Joseph A. Mariotti—Butler, PA
8304 Edward Maschke—Lompoc, CA
8309 Shelby McClanahan—Orange Lake, FL
8326 Pauline McMahan—Columbus, MI
8344 Angeline M. Meyers—Whitehall, PA
8341 Alexis Mihalik—Canfield, OH
8344 Jesse P. Miller—Martinsburg, PA
8315 Linda Miller—Crown Point, IN
8344 Theodore K. Miller—Apollo, PA
8341 Joseph Mrosko—Lorain, OH
8359 Paul Murawski—Clemmons, NC
8344 Clifford M. Murray—Souderton, PA
8358 Ruth M. Myer—Longwood, FL
8341 David W. Myers—Youngstown, OH
8344 N. Timothy Nixon—New Brighton, PA
8358 Gerald J. Nytes—Kaukauna, WI
8358 Marvin K. Peterson—Appleton, WI
8344 Margaret Petrini—Punxsutawney, PA

8315 Jerry J. Peyton—Griffith, IN
8313 Mary E. Piekarz—Oak Brook, IL
8344 Ronald Pittock—Warren, PA
8335 Gerald Pociask—Garfield, NJ
8344 Eugene G. Podratsky—
Johnstown, PA
8326 John D. Poholsky—Livonia, MI
8344 Pamela M. Polizzi—Dunmore, PA
8315 Jean Louise Poulos—Crown
Point, IN
8359 Johnny B. Powell—Clinton, NC
8344 Theresa Prebish—Pittston, PA
8344 Helene L. Prehatny—
Wynnewood, PA
8358 James G. Preston—Brandon, WI
8309 Kathleen Ransom—Jacksonville, FL
8344 Olga Ravicchio—Vandergrift, PA
8359 Sandra Reid—Fayetteville, NC
8356 Percy Rinker—Deer Park, WA
8344 Mary Ann Rudalavage—Eynon, PA
8344 Kathryn M. Sandusky—Cranberry
Twp., PA
8306 Antonio Santos—Middlebury, CT
8344 William Schuettler—Pottsville, PA
8358 Eugene J. Senger—Milwaukee, WI
8344 Irene Shaffer—Wheatland, PA
8344 Florella M. Silvis—Murrysville, PA
8344 Dina Simoni—Aliquippa, PA
8344 Kathleen M. Slater—Lafayette
Hall, PA
8344 Joan Smolko—Jessup, PA
8344 Shirley Sobel—Philadelphia, PA
8315 Robert J. Solon—Valparaiso, IN
8358 Marvin C. Sommer—Unity, WI
8344 Ramona Sparber—Coraopolis, PA
8315 Donna M. Stewart—Crown Point, IN
8344 Paul J. Sumandra—Johnstown, PA
8344 Magdalene Swartz—Uniontown, PA
8304 Stephanie Terrell—Escondido, CA
8357 Mary G. Thomas—Weirton, WV
8344 Veronica Trach—Valenciale, PA
8344 Barbara Tretinik—Northern
Cambria, PA
8344 Charles Urban—Luzerne, PA
8341 Saliro Ventura—Parma, OH
8359 Thomas Viegas—Matthews, NC
8315 Helen Voloch—LaPorte, IN
8344 Elizabeth Vulcano—Houston, PA
8344 Rosemary Walsh—Warren, PA
8358 George Warras—Milwaukee, WI
8326 Gayle A. Weast—Plymouth, MI
8344 Patricia M. Williams—
McKeesport, PA
8302 Daryl Wonderly—Tucson, AZ
8344 Geraldine A. Yarosik—North
Huntingdon, PA



THINGS TO
Know
ABOUT A
TRADITIONAL IRA



TRADITIONAL IRA

GCU members should be aware of the following Secure Act rules when making decisions about their IRAs in 2025:

-  The age at which owners of retirement accounts must start taking RMDs is 73. Effective January 1, 2023, the minimum age required for taking RMDs increased from 72 to 73. If you turned 72 in 2022 or earlier, you would need to continue taking RMDs as scheduled.
-  The annual contribution maximum is \$7,000 (or \$8,000 under the catch-up contribution for those age 50 or older).*
-  Provided you have earned income from active employment, there is no age restriction that prevents you from contributing to your IRA. Under some circumstances, a working spouse with earned income may contribute to the IRA of their spouse who is not working.* *You can contribute to or open a 2025 IRA until April 15, 2026.*
-  Parents may withdraw up to \$5,000 to pay expenses for the birth or adoption of a child, without penalty.

**Subject to the premium payment schedule of your annuity product.*

Having earned income from active employment is a requirement for contributing to a traditional IRA, and your annual contributions to an IRA cannot exceed what you earned that year. The GCU Fixed Indexed Annuity or Fixed Deferred Annuity Products may be excellent choices for your IRA needs.

This is general information regarding IRAs—GCU does not provide tax advice, and you should consult your tax advisor regarding your personal situation.



5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver PA, 15009

GCUusa.com