



THE NEW RUSYN TIMES

A Cultural-Organizational Publication of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society
Культурно-сполоченський часопис Карпато-Русинського Общества

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Рочник 27, Число 3

Iconostasis of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

David Hall

Anyone who enters St. John Chrysostom is immediately struck by the many beautiful icons all around the walls and even the ceiling of the church. But the most captivating part of the church is the iconostasis (icon screen). As one of the most distinctive features of an Orthodox or Eastern Rite Church, the iconostasis is a wall that separates the sanctuary, which houses the altar, from the rest of the church and is made up of many different icons and religious symbols. The iconostasis has three series of doors: the centrally located Royal Doors (also called the Holy Doors or Beautiful Gates), and the two “deacon doors” on the left and right sides.



“St. John Chrysostom,” Photo by author, July 2020. The recognizable exterior is a landmark of sorts on the Penn-Lincoln Parkway.

Andy Warhol, whose family attended since he was a child. The pre-existing congregation started construction on the current building started in 1932 and ended in 1935, but the church and iconostasis has undergone many changes since then. Most notably, the church saw redecorations in the 70s and 80s and even more recent renovations from 1994 to 1997. The present iconostasis is a unique design in America; whereas most American iconostases only have two layers, St. John Chrysostom has a much taller traditional Russian style, with four layers of icons. This Slavic style of iconostasis reflects the church’s origins in the Carpatho-Rusyn community, a Slavic people from the Carpathian Mountains and surrounding regions in Europe which received Russian and other Slavic influences over time. This design included a larger space in the Royal Doors, which allows a clearer view into the sanctuary and the altar. The space around the Royal Doors is also reminiscent of Byzantine domes and architecture.



“Royal Doors,” Photo by Author, July 2020. The royal doors are intricately designed with images of the four gospel writers.

Located in Greenfield, PA, St. John Chrysostom is a Byzantine Catholic Church, meaning it is part of the Catholic Church that follows Byzantine traditions. This particular church gained some fame from one of their late members,

continued on page 5

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Dealing with the global impact of COVID-19 has been a challenge for everyone. During this period of social distancing, the C-RS has been working intently on how to best serve you.

The Media Education Committee has been meeting every two weeks. Thus far, the committee is responsible for creating: our new Facebook group page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184518192944040/>, Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/carpathorusynsociety/>, and interesting video programs, <https://c-rsmedia.org>.

The Genealogy Committee created a genealogy forum: <https://c-rs.org/Genealogy-Discussion-Forum> so please check it out. You may find some of the information provided extremely helpful.

The Membership Committee performed surveys and analysis so we could serve you better.

Our long-time member Bill Tarkulich performed a valuable service to our society by indexing all of our New Rusyn Times. We are very pleased about how his efforts turned out.



Maryann H. Sivak
National President

It should now be quite easy to locate information. Our members can now access his work online. This index is important, especially to our newer members and researchers.

John Schweich's collection of parish histories, all 40 boxes, were indexed. Heartfelt thanks to our volunteer, who wishes to remain anonymous. There are three different inventories: one of parish histories, one of journal articles and other books, and a list of CDs and DVDs. At present, I would estimate the combined lists to total about 225 pages! Now, the tremendous task of scanning that collection, which will entail tens of thousands of pages, awaits us. As always, we are looking for volunteers. You can read details of John's collection in this newsletter.

This year, due to the pandemic, our Annual Member Meeting will be held online on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be on Zoom and, possibly, other platforms. To join, you will have to register via email. Please email us at: 2020am@c-rs.org to reserve your place. Include your name, home address, phone number and email. You will then receive a confirmation email that your annual meeting attendance request has been received. Login information will be sent to you prior to the meeting. Please be aware that the Annual Meeting is open to C-RS members only.

THE NEW RUSYN TIMES



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and issued free to the members of the Society.

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\$20/column-inch (members) or \$40/column-inch (non-members).
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Submission Guidelines

The New Rusyn Times welcomes contributions by its readers.
Articles selected for publication may be edited for content
and length. Please note that articles promoting political agenda
or specific faiths cannot be accepted.

E-mail: Send submissions to editor@c-rs.org

Text: Word (doc or docx) or rtf format.

Photos: jpegs in the largest file size possible. If too large to e-mail,
photos may be sent to our Dropbox; address available on request.

Charts or artwork with text: PDF or native file format.
Otherwise scan at the highest resolution possible.

Contribution deadlines for 2020

Winter — Oct. 9, 2020 Spring — January 15, 2021
Summer — April 17, 2021

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New Video Release: A History of the Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural and Educational Center, Part 1

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society Educational Media Committee

Presented by Maryann Sivak,

President of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society

In this first in a series, Maryann presents the history of our Cultural Center, located in Munhall, Pennsylvania, where many Rusyn immigrants came to find work in the steel mills.

The former Ruthenian Cathedral was purchased by the Carpatho-Rusyn Society in 2004 and is designated by the Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation as a Historic Landmark.

Step back in time and tour the neighborhood where Rusyn activity flourished.

Click on: <https://youtu.be/VBh8IW7VUFQ>

Visit us on:

Carpatho-Rusyn Society Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184518192944040/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/carpathorusyn-society/>

Carpatho-Rusyn Society Media Site: <https://c-rsmedia.org/>

We appreciate member feedback and comments as we publish these presentations.

We also seek the support and talents of members who can assist as Audiovisual Supervisor or Virtual Curator (as described in the recent C-RS Connection).

Donations to support our continued productions are gratefully accepted; visit www.c-rs.org and click on "Donations". Dyakuyu!

Volunteer Opportunities

Explore your interests and passions by volunteering your time to the C-RS.

Volunteering is a rewarding experience and brings fun and fulfillment to our lives. Many studies have found a link between helping others and personal happiness. Compared with people who don't volunteer, the odds of being "very happy" was 7% greater than those who volunteer monthly and increased to 12% for people who volunteer every two to four weeks.

Currently, we are seeking:

- Audiovisual supervisor: Oversee the use and care of C-RS equipment, assess image and live-streaming quality, and act as the primary videographer

at the Cultural Center (Pittsburgh)

- Virtual curator: Oversee website scanning and uploads, monitor quality, organize and index the archives of The New Rusyn Times, videos, photos, genealogy, and other cultural material and media

We need your input and your ideas! Please email Maryann Sivak at pres@c-rs.org or call her at 412-251-3083 to discuss available volunteer opportunities.

New Members

Welcome to our newest C-RS members. The following are new or renewing members since June 15, 2020.

- Hunter Roman Akiyoshi, Downers Grove, IL
- Catherine Baumgardner, Lancaster, PA
- Mary Bednar, Santa Fe, NM
- Mark Bennett, Lake Wales, FL
- Loretta Blessing, Fort Myers, FL
- Natalia Boyd, Strongsville, OH
- Joseph Brenzovich, Tappanhook, VA
- Scott and Janet Brunermer, Apollo, PA
- Marlene Fecek, Elmyra, OH
- Sandra Fisher, Portage, MI
- Elissa Gonda, Madison, WI
- Susan Gordon, Stephenville TX
- Jean Grussing, Minneapolis, MN
- Sandra Haining, Binghamton, NY
- Bob Hakun, Pottstown, PA
- James Harris, Springfield, VT
- Kathleen Hickey, Davis, CA
- Kristin Holm, Johnston, IA
- Ethyn Johns, Warren, OH
- Nancy Karberg, Rio Ranch, NM
- Eleanor Kehoe, Succasunna, NJ
- Joseph Magyar, Saint Clairsville, OH
- Lena Mikulak, Arlington, VA
- Richard Pohanich, Sedona, AZ
- Betsy Pyle, Morgantown, WV
- Katherine Rives, Winston-Salem, NC
- Kenneth Salak, Gulfport, FL
- William Schultz, Pittsburgh, PA
- Albert Smochko, Glenshaw, PA
- Mary Stasko, North Arlington, NJ
- Toma and Olga Stefero, Yorba Linda, CA
- Paul Swiatko, Clayton, CA
- Lisa Kramer Vosko, Spring, TX
- Mary York, Dunlo, PA

Again, we welcome these new members and look forward to a lasting relationship. We hope that you become involved and bring your talents and skills to the organization.

The Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship



Margaret "Maggie" Anysia Conjelko

The Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship for 2020 has been awarded to Margaret "Maggie" Anysia Conjelko of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

Maggie plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh and pursue a double-major in Spanish and International Studies. She hopes to incorporate her interests in

urban studies, poverty, sustainability, inequality, and other social and environmental issues in her studies.

Maggie excelled academically in high school and has a fascination for and strength in languages. She has studied Spanish, Persian, and Russian; she also participated in the National Security Language Institute Study Abroad in Tajikistan and completed a Russian Language program at Kent State University. Her travels included some time in Ecuador.

Maggie values her Rusyn heritage, which has helped to foster an appreciation of other cultures. She's an active participant at church dinners, programs, Rusyn dances, and pysanky,

and sings in the choir. She played percussion in her school's marching band, is an ESL tutor, and volunteers at a local animal shelter.

In her application essay, Maggie wrote, "Being Rusyn-American is something that I am extremely proud of, and I take representing my community with dignity and respect very seriously. This scholarship will help me to further contribute to my community and society like many of the proud Rusyn-Americans that came before me."

The scholarship committee members (Dr. Paula Donson, Sharon Jarrow, Pam Hemzik, Sarah Latanyshyn, and Paul Lohin) received a number of excellent applications from outstanding students, making it a challenge to choose a single recipient.

The Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship has been awarded annually since 2016 and was established by Dr. Paula Donson in memory of her grandmother Anna. It encourages and highlights the contributions of Rusyn people to their communities and the world. It is intended to accelerate the advancement of young Carpatho-Rusyns and to expand their community involvement and intellectual development through higher education.

The members of the scholarship committee and the C-RS Board of Directors are grateful to Sasha Sanderson for her recent thoughtful and generous donation to the scholarship fund. Please consider donating to the fund to support the ongoing availability of this educational opportunity.

C-RS CHAPTER NEWS

Dallas Chapter

News From the Dallas Chapter

During this time of COVID uncertainty, the board members of the Dallas Chapter of Carpatho-Rusyn Society send thoughts, prayers, and best wishes for the continued health of all members and friends of the C-R S.

Dallas Chapter board members hail from the Texas cities of Dallas, Austin, Houston, and San Antonio and Albuquerque, New Mexico, and represent the Carpatho-Rusyn migration to the Southwest.

L to R, Front: Gwenne Pierce, Lori Kruczek, Margaret Gariota, Linda Tkacs, Linda Bowka.

Rear: Mark Bowka, Dave Evans, Peter Tkacs, Lee Ann Slavik-Erder, Jeannette and Jim Kopko, Rick Erder, Jack Gariota

Not present: Paul and Lisa Fedorka, Andrew Gill, Bob and Cathy Senich, Mark Wansa.



(continued from page 1)

All iconostases feature icons in different layers. At St. John Chrysostom, the icons on the bottom level include one of Jesus Christ, the Theotokos (Mary, the Mother of God), St. John Chrysostom, and St. Nicholas. As patron saints, St. Nicholas and St. John Chrysostom are holy figures who protect Eastern Catholic Churches, the latter of whom protects this church in particular. Christ and Mary are located on either side of the Royal Doors in all Eastern Rite Churches. The second layer of icons depict many events in the New Testament, such as the Nativity of Christ, the Pentecost, and Christ's Baptism. Another interesting detail is in the placement of icons relating to the Mother of God on the lower level. In a special place on either side of the Royal Doors, there is a two-part icon in between the first level and the second levels. This icon is of the Annunciation (when an angel told the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to Jesus), which the church added after renovations in the 90s. These renovations helped expand the iconostasis and also changed the icons to a more traditional Byzantine style. The third level of icons depicts various saints—notably, St. Athanasius, the saints Cyril and Methodius, St. Paul, and many more. They face the icon of Christ Enthroned, portraying Christ's rule in heaven at the top of the iconostasis. Finally, the top layer shows many Old Testament figures, like Moses, King David, Ezekiel, and Daniel almost on top of the other saints.



"Iconostasis," Photo by Author, July 2020.



"Iconostasis," Photo by Author, July 2020.



"Iconostasis," Photo by Author, July 2020.

Top: The right side of the iconostasis features Christ and St. John Chrysostom.

Above: The top of the iconostasis carries deep theological significance like those on the lowest level.

Left: The left side of the iconostasis features the Mother of God and St. Nicholas.

Above the Royal Doors, there are four icons that seem separate from the other layers. The icon of Christ Enthroned sits triumphantly at the very top, flanked by one of Mary the Mother of God on the left and St. John the Baptist on the right. Below these icons is the Divine Supper, also called the Last Supper in Western European traditions. This icon appears like a keystone of the entire iconostasis, drawing a clear parallel between that scene and that of the Divine Liturgy which is celebrated on Sunday. Unlike other churches, there is no clear icon of the crucifixion though it is present in the iconostasis. Above, Mary, St. John, and Christ Enthroned are three crosses, which is symbolic of the crucifixion of Christ. This subtle depiction of theology without the explicit use of icons is found elsewhere in the heavily ornate iconostasis. Between icons are also two tablets with Roman numerals representing the 10 commandments on the left side. A cross, cup, and book are on the opposite side all of which are foundational Christian images. These two designs in between the icons bring together elements from both the Old and New Testaments of the Christian tradition and add to the significance of the iconostasis in the church.



"Whole Iconostasis," Photo by Author, July 2020. The iconostasis is the central fixture of any Eastern Rite or Orthodox church.

Beyond its visual significance, the iconostasis is also a central part of the church for its role in the liturgy. In the church, the iconostasis denotes the sacred, where the sanctuary is often symbolic of heaven. For something to be sacred in this tradition, it must be set apart from the profane in some way. This separation is literally portrayed in the physical separation of the iconostasis. But this separation is not impermeable. In the liturgy, there are many entrances and exits from the sanctuary that bring out the Gospels or the sacrament. The Gospel reading and the sacraments are a very literal form of bringing the sacred to the laity, and it is all facilitated by the iconostasis and its doors.

Further Reading

Klein, Barbara. "A Pop Icon's Iconic Beginning." Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, 2019, <https://carnegiemuseums.org/carnegie-magazine/fall-2019/a-pop-icons-iconic-beginning/>. Accessed July 2020

"The Iconostasis: A Characteristic Feature of the Byzantine Catholic Church." Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, <https://www.archpitt.org/the-iconostasis-a-characteristic-feature-of-the-byzantine-catholic-church/>. Accessed July 2020

"The Iconostasis." St. Tikhon's Seminary, <https://www.stots.edu/article/The+Iconostasis>. Accessed July 2020

"An Historic Glimpse." St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, <http://www.sjcbcc.com/history.html>. Accessed July 2020

Hall, David. "Iconostasis of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church." ReligYinz: Mapping Religious Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh, July 2020, <https://religyinz.word-press.com/>

The ReligYinz project is a dynamic, participatory, and evolving online exhibit that show cases the lived experiences of religion in Pittsburgh. Unlike traditional approaches to religion that emphasize doctrine and theology, this exhibition highlights the sensory, grassroots, and vernacular aspects of religious life in our region. Pages on Buddhist chanting and Muslim hip-hop artists showcase the sounds of religious Pittsburgh. Studies on fish fries, bean pies, and challah bakeries will analyze its varied tastes. Images of religious icons and murals zero in on its colorful sights. This exhibit features religious Pittsburgh in all of its diversity and dynamism, and in ways that are as colloquial, unexpected, and quintessentially Pittsburgh as our second-person plural pronoun.

For each case study, undergraduate students research, photograph, and write about lived religion in Pittsburgh. This project is made possible by the combined efforts of students, professors, staff, librarians, and community partners.



Inside this issue, you will find a survey about the New Rusyn Times.

We want to know more about what you think of our quarterly publication.

Please remove the sheet, complete the survey, fold and tape it closed, add a regular postage stamp, and return it to us.

We appreciate your input and feedback.

Iva Fedorka

Editor

THE CARPATHO-RUSYN SOCIETY
915 DICKSON STREET
MUNHALL, PA 15120-1929

Please Return Survey Comments to:



Feedback About The New Rusyn Times

The newsletter is printed quarterly - is that the right frequency?

- ☐ Yes, four times a year is about right.
- ☐ If you don't agree, please share your thoughts.

Overall, do you like the C-RS newsletter, The New Rusyn Times?

- ☐ Love it - can't wait to get my copy!
- ☐ Very much - I look forward to reading it.
- ☐ Somewhat - I don't typically track when it will arrive.
- ☐ Not at all - I usually don't read it.
- ☐ Other (please tell us more)

How visually appealing is The New Rusyn Times newsletter?

- ☐ Fine as is.
- ☐ Needs an updated look.
- ☐ Would be better printed in color.
- ☐ Other (please elaborate)

The NRT newsletter is currently only available in print. Please comment about the format.

- ☐ I like getting the NRT in print.
- ☐ I'd rather only get an electronic newsletter.
- ☐ I like the printed NRT, but I'd like the option to also download an electronic copy.
- ☐ I would be willing to pay something extra to continue to get printed copies.
- ☐ I would like to be able to reprint earlier copies of the newsletter.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

The New Rusyn Times is typically 16 to 20 pages long. Please comment on the amount of content.

- ☐ The length is just about right.
- ☐ I'd like to see more content.
- ☐ I think it could be shorter/smaller.
- ☐ No opinion.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

How easily can you find information in the newsletter?

- ☐ No problem - the sections typically appear in a predictable order.
- ☐ Sometimes a problem, especially when I'm looking for something specific.
- ☐ Problematic - I'd like an index of what's included in each issue.
- ☐ Other (please describe)

Which sections of the newsletter are you most likely to read?

- ☐ Cover Article
- ☐ President's Message
- ☐ News from the Chapters
- ☐ Genealogical Articles
- ☐ Rusyn History
- ☐ Rusyn Recipes
- ☐ Rusyn Customs and Traditions
- ☐ Other (please provide more details)

What other topics would you like to see covered in the NRT?

Would you be interested in downloading an electronic copy of an earlier issue from the archives?

- ☐ Definitely, and maybe more than one
- ☐ Likely one or two
- ☐ Maybe, but unlikely
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ Definitely not
- ☐ Other (please comment)

Would you be willing to submit an article or volunteer to be a regular “reporter” for the NRT?

- ☐ No
 - ☐ Yes
- If “Yes”, please provide your area of interest or expertise.

Please add your contact information and any other comments about the NRT or the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

Your Travel Bucket List: Eastern Slovakia - Part 2

Ladomirová (UNESCO) and Bodružal (UNESCO)

Martin Michálek

Within a mere hour and a half drive of Košice in Eastern Slovakia and located close to the Slovak-Polish border are two charming Rusyn villages: Ladomirová and the smaller Bodružal (population 63).

The area is well-known for the strategic Battle of the Dukla Pass (See NRT Fall 2017, Vol. 24, No. 3) that affected the course of Central European events near the end of World War II. The Dukla Pass Battlefield is now a national cultural landmark and one of the biggest open-air museums in the world.

After being nearly destroyed during the Dukla operation in the fall of 1944, Ladomirová, founded in 1427, was rebuilt during the following decades.

Miraculously, the wooden church of St. Michael the Archangel (built in 1742) survived. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) listed this church in Eastern Slovakia as a World Heritage Site. It is one of the most valuable and architecturally representative examples of Eastern rite architecture in Slovakia. It has an octagon-shaped dome above the nave and three elaborate towers; it sits in the center of a small circular area defined by a shingle-covered log fence. No metal nails were used in its construction, and the all-wooden structure includes a self-standing bell tower, a feature not typical of wooden churches.

A ten-minute drive north of Ladomirová takes you to Bodružal, a tiny village surrounded by green wooded hills. Bodružal is the serene location of another UNESCO World Heritage wooden gem – the St. Nicholas Church. Built in 1658, it is one of the oldest and best-preserved churches of the Eastern rite in Slovakia. Its typical three-towered structure sits on elevated terrain above a quiet local road and near a World

War I memorial cemetery.

About a half-hour drive east from Bodružal is the town of Medzilaborce, home of the Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art. Founded in 1991, it was the first museum in the world dedicated to Andy Warhol's life and work, followed later by the establishment of the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. The exhibit in Medzilaborce presents a complex picture of Warhol's Rusyn background through his artwork and many artifacts related to his life and the lives of his ancestors. Following completion of a major museum remodeling, the impressive art collection is expected to expand.

If you have time, visit the nearby village of Miková, where Andy Warhol's parents were born. You may even be lucky enough to speak with descendants of the Varchola and Zavacký families. (Andy's mother's maiden name was Zavacká.)

The "cherry on top" of this trip is a stop in Hawaii on your way back to Košice. That's right – Hawaii! The Slovak village of Havaj (Hawaii) is located just five minutes from Miková, so don't forget to pack your favorite "Havaj" shirt!

Next in Part 3: Bardejov (UNESCO) and Hervartov (UNESCO)

To learn more about the featured area, or for more travel inspirations, visit www.weareunesco.com or www.kosiceregion.com, search "kosice region ladomirova/ bodruzal" on YouTube, or contact the author: martin.michalek@kosiceregion.com



Church of Saint-Nicolas of Bodružal, Copyright: Kosice Region Tourism



Church of Saint-Nicolas of Bodružal, Copyright: Kosice Region Tourism

Book Review: “Czechoslovakia: Behind the Iron Curtain” by Zuzana Palovic and Gabriela Bereghazyova

Bill Tarkulich

If you came of age during the Cold War and want to know what living was like behind the Iron Curtain, this book is for you. I might argue that this is the first book that has succinctly, clearly, and completely explained how Czechoslovakia aimed to create a perfect society, and its everlasting impact on the people of Czechoslovakia. Plenty of books have been written on socialism and politics, but this one addresses the impact of the regime on day-to-day living.

The authors explore each aspect of life, first describing the state philosophy and tactics, and then exploring the impact the state had on people in groups and with many specific examples. In theory, Socialism was all about creating a classless society where all people were equal. To achieve that, the government used fear and social control of the people. The authors called this an “experiment” which never succeeded. The regime dictated all aspects of one’s life: birth, education, child-rearing, romance, recreation, music, art, theater, possessions, religion, work, housing, food, free time, exercise, national pride, culture, and even death. Compliance was mandatory.

By the time I arrived at page 400, I was entirely depressed. I could not imagine living in a world where every aspect of my life had been planned out for me. Arguably, one out of every six people in Czechoslovakia was a “snitch”, who ensured offenders were reported. The Iron Curtain primarily kept its citizens contained and their minds from being corrupted by news from the West.

The good news is that not all people in the regime were able to “go along” with the program. As early as the 1960s, there were voices asking for more freedom. The book deftly explores the “Prague Spring” from a human perspective.

While the authors extensively researched government archives and officials and included hundreds of first-hand accounts, the book presents the human face of life in a society filled with complexity and confusion. Clearly, Palovic and Bereghazyova have left no stone unturned in seeking the truth.

Both authors were born in Czechoslovakia but raised and educated in the West. The book is directed towards the Western reader, filled with English-language idioms, irony, and figures-of-speech that are clearly understandable and make it a compelling and fast read.

The book, over 600 pages, contains approximately 350 pages of period photographs, documents, and posters. While some of the photos have been published before, each one has a description, location, and date. I went back through a second time and each photograph was more understandable.

I wish this book had been written before my trip to Slovakia in 2000. It would have helped me to frame my research questions better and would have explained why I received blank

stares or empty answers to some of my questions. I hope to go again in a year or two, and I will ask much better questions.

Sadly, this 40-year experiment has inflicted permanent scars upon people’s knowledge of family, culture, religion, and ambitions. Socialism taught people to look ahead to goals and cast away their knowledge of the past. Minimum family, maximum society. I daresay it will take another two generations before the people feel confident enough to carve out their own destinies.

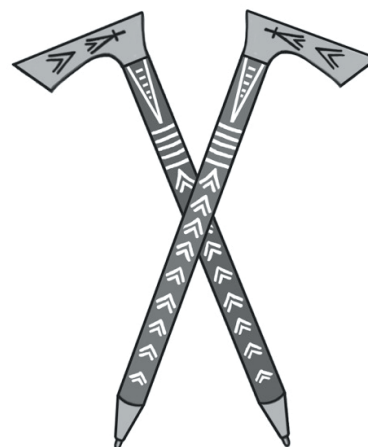
If you are a genealogist, these changes will have great impact on your research success. Most of the in-country primary sources of cultural and religious knowledge have gone to their graves, never having been passed down generation to generation. In some places we may find ourselves knowing more than those living in the village today.

The good news is that many in Slovakia (my main area of interest) are expressing an interest in reviving old cultures, religions, languages, and education. Slovakia remains one of the most disadvantaged countries in Europe. Since it became a part of the EU, youth are leaving their Slovakian birthplaces in droves. The government is still evolving and access to information is often still a mystery.

If you are researching topics in Slovakia or the Czech Republic today, this book is essential. Putting information into the appropriate context of time and history is the best way to make research progress.

Visit www.globalslovakia.com to learn more about the non-profit organization Global Slovakia, including other publications and broadcasts. (This book is for sale on amazon.com.)

“Czechoslovakia: Behind the Iron Curtain” by Zuzana Palovic and Gabriela Bereghazyova. Published by Global Slovakia, Bratislava, Slovakia, and Hybrid Global Publishing, New York, 2019



The John Schweich Collection of Parish Histories



John Schweich

Of German and Irish descent, John Schweich was not born a Rusyn but became one while growing up in Frackville in the heart of Pennsylvania's anthracite region. His neighbors were largely Eastern European immigrants and John was fascinated by their history and culture.

After finishing college, John served his country with distinction, first as an army officer in Viet Nam and then with the Central Intelligence Agency. A dedicated member of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society (C-RS), John was president of the Washington, DC C-RS Chapter, a member of the C-RS National Education and Museum Committee, and a highly valued and admired C-RS trustee from 2016 until his passing in late 2017.

Over the years, John witnessed the closure of many of the 600 Carpatho-Rusyn churches and the potential loss of their records and rich history. He began a 30-year mission to recover and preserve those histories, realizing that this collection could be an irreplaceable resource for genealogical research. In his will, he left the collection to the C-RS.

In September 2019, an anonymous C-RS member volunteered to create an inventory of the collection. During the next ten months, this volunteer painstakingly examined and inventoried more than 2,000 items. Ultimately, the C-RS

plans to scan and make the contents of these publications available. However, the challenge of scanning tens of thousands of pages will require a substantial effort.

The Schweich collection comprises:

- Approximately 1,700 church histories
- About 300 other books, almanacs, and articles about ethnic and religious history
- Two dozen CDs, VHS tapes, and DVDs of liturgical services and church history

Each sub-collection has its own inventory list, a total of 231 indexed pages. All of the items have been catalogued, placed in 40 archival boxes, and are being stored in a climate-controlled area. An additional box, not yet indexed, consists of roughly 25 books in Cyrillic that need to be translated.

Most of the Schweich collection is church anniversary books published between 1929 and 2016. The index is 194 pages, arranged in alphabetical order by church name, location, and publication date. Comments about the type of information in each have been added; some are substantial and profusely illustrated while others are shorter souvenir programs.

One of the oldest (1929) church histories comes from St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This 64-page booklet commemorates its 40th anniversary and includes a list of founders, church history, historical photos, and information about the 1929 parish organizations. Three other church histories exist for St. Mary's, which is now called St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Cathedral:

- 1) the Golden Jubilee album (1937)
- 2) the 100th Anniversary album (1987)
- 3) the 125th Anniversary Celebration Album (2012)

Another history from 1929 is for St. Michael's Greek Catholic Church in Donora, Pennsylvania, now known as St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church. This 56-page volume celebrates the church's Silver Jubilee and includes the church history, photos of parish organizations, and many congratulatory letters and tributes. Five other volumes from this church are in the collection:

- 1) the banquet program from the 25th Anniversary of the Pastorate of The Rev. George Chegin (1946)
- 2) the church's Golden Jubilee album (1954)
- 3) the Solemn Blessing and Rededication of the newly remodeled church (1963)
- 4) the program from the 75th Anniversary Banquet (1979)
- 5) the 100th Anniversary volume (2004)

Two churches have the most books in the collection, with eight parish volumes each. One is Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, with publications that span the 50 years from 1954 to 2004. The other is Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, with publications dated from 1957 to 2007.

While the majority of the parish histories are from churches scattered across the coal mining and steel mill towns of northeastern and western Pennsylvania, documents from 23 other states, the District of Columbia, and Canada are also represented. The complete list, in alphabetical order:

Alabama	Michigan
Alaska	Minnesota
Arizona	Missouri
California	Nevada
Canada	New Jersey
Connecticut	New York
Delaware	North Dakota
District of Columbia	Ohio
Florida	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Rhode Island
Indiana	Virginia
Maryland	West Virginia
Massachusetts	Wisconsin

Most of the churches represent Rusyn and Ukrainian parishes, but other "Slavic" ethnicities—Armenian, Croatian, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Serbian, and Slovak—are also included.

The "Other Books and Articles" list is 34 pages long and covers the period from 1905 to 2016. While all of the books and programs are important, a few stand out because of the quality of their information and historical photographs.

The oldest and one of the most fascinating entries is the "Census of Congregations, Churches, Priests, Chapels, Faithful, and Elementary Schools of the Greek-Ruthenian Rite in the United States as of September 1905." This is a clear photocopy, printed on 11 x 17-inch paper, with the journal listings in Latin. It includes a transcription of the lists from 91 parishes but is not attributed. We do not know who so carefully and patiently transcribed the many pages of journal entries.

Another exciting find was the Silver Jubilee Directory of 1949 for the "Byzantine Slavonic Rite Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh." This volume includes:

- photos of all member parishes plus a photo of the current priest
- a brief history of each church, the 1949 property value and the number of members or "souls"
- Photos of assistant pastors
- a necrology of Diocesan clergy
- information about the Benedictine Fathers and the Sisters of St. Basil the Great
- photos of parochial schools, convents, and rectories

Many of these parishes and their buildings are long gone, so the directory offers a unique glimpse into the Byzantine Catholic history of our ancestors.

Other records include the Kalendars or Almanacs of the Greek Catholic Union from 1912 to 1959. John also collected the histories of towns that had significant Rusyn populations, such as Farrell, Frackville, and Nanticoke (all in Pennsylvania). Other classic volumes include Lemko Studies: A Handbook by Bogdan Horbal and many of Paul Robert Magocsi's works. There are biographies of bishops and saints, copies of legal proceedings from various parish lawsuits, and newspaper articles about local churches.

Although all of these have been inventoried, some lack authors or publication dates.

The third and final part is a three-page list of CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes. While a much smaller part of the collection, it includes recordings of choral selections from the Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Choir in Philadelphia. A 113-minute VHS tape from St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Lyndora, Pennsylvania includes historic photos, camera footage, and as an interview with Archbishop Stephen Kocisko, who reminisces about his early pastorate in Lyndora.

We owe John Schweich a debt of gratitude for his perseverance in collecting and maintaining a unique and priceless history of the Rusyn people.

The John Schweich Parish History Collection Index

Index Listings

The index is listed alphabetically by:

- Church name
- Parish location
- Year of publication

Each record includes:

- The exact title and the church name as printed on the cover (with some adjustments for consistency)
- A brief church history
- The storage box number (1 to 40) in which it can be found
- The number of pages in a volume (when available)

Church and Parish Names

Church names are as consistent as possible, but some vary by publication. For example, a particular church may have been called St. John's Greek Catholic Church at one time but referred to as St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in another. Other inconsistencies may have been missed, such as a church being first called "Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic" and then just "Orthodox."

- Churches referred to only as "Greek Catholic" are listed that way
- The latter name is used for churches with several anniversary books; if it was first called "Greek Catholic" and later "Byzantine Catholic", then all entries are under the "Byzantine Catholic Church"

name

- "Cathedral" is used if a parish was first a church and later designated as a cathedral
- Churches with more than one parish assignment may be cross-referenced

Spelling

Words are spelled as they appear in the specific publication. For example, some churches referred to the "Iconostasi," while other used "Ikionostas" or may offer an alternate spelling of a common word like "perohi".

Comments and Notations

"Comments" provides concise information about the publication contents for church and genealogy research.

- Some publications include significant information, context, or historical photographs
- Directories: Churches with pictorial directories indicate whether only or other contact information (addresses and phone numbers) exist
- Advertising: Included in most publications; less church information may be available if ads account for many of the pages
- Memorials: "Photographic memorial tributes" are indicated if memorials that include family trees, old photos, and other interesting information

"Notations" indicate multiple copies, damaged or loose pages, foreign language text (common), and other characteristics.

Obituary: Emil G. Kraynak



Emil G. Kraynak, 89, passed away on Monday, 25 May 2020 at The Sanctuary at Tuttle Crossing, Ohio, USA.

Emil was born 24 March 1931 in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Michael and Anna (Orinchak) Kraynak. A 1948 graduate of East High School, he served in

the U.S. Army and worked a sign painter for Johnson & Ocarz Sign Company.

Emil was a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Youngstown and a founding member of the Youngstown/Warren Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

Emil was a talented painter of Byzantine icons, writer, woodcarver, gardener, builder, and baker and loved to create beautiful thing to share with his family, friends and church.

One of his greatest joys was passing on traditions from his Byzantine faith and Carpatho-Rusyn culture to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He loved the outdoors and was an accomplished fisherman and hunter.

He was married for 47 years to the former Mary Jo Wrenn, whom he married on 15 June 1956 and who passed away on 22 November 2003.

Left to cherish his memory are his children Mary Pat Arellano of Winter Park, FL, Michael (Peggy) Kraynak of Oneida, IL, Betsy Kraynak of Galloway, OH, Tom Kraynak of Hilliard, OH, and Katie (Bob) Kapala of Galloway, OH; sister, Helen Kraynak; brothers Fr. Nicholas Kraynak, retired Byzantine priest, and Bill Kraynak, all of Youngstown; ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Emil was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary Jo; brothers Michael, John, Andy and Edward "Butch"; sisters Ann, Mary, and Marge, and grandson Nicholas Kraynak.

Make a contribution in Emil's name to Carpatho-Rusyn Society (www.c-rs.org), 915 Dickson Street, Munhall, PA 15120-1929.



Carpatho-Rusyn Society

915 Dickson Street

Munhall, PA 15120-1929

**Our annual member meeting will be held online on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at
1:00 p.m.**

The meeting will be on Zoom and, possibly, other platforms. To join, you must register via email. Please email us at: 2020am@c-rs.org to reserve your place.

Include your name, home address, phone number, and email. You will receive a confirmation email that your annual meeting attendance request has been received. Login information will be sent to you prior to the meeting.