



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

October 2025 eNews

Message from the Bishop

My Days in Rome: A Journey of Hope

Dearly beloved clergy, monastics, and the faithful of the Eparchy of Phoenix, dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

In the past weeks, I was blessed to spend time in Rome together with more than 200 newly consecrated bishops from every corner of the world. This gathering was a training program for us “baby bishops,” gathered in the heart of the Church under this year’s theme: “Witnesses and Announcers of Hope Founded in Christ,” but above all, it was a time of prayer, fraternity, and hope.

A Moment of Gratitude at St. Peter’s Basilica

One of the most moving moments came when we celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the Basilica of St. Peter, followed by a visit to the tomb of the Apostle himself. To stand at the place where Peter confessed his faith and gave his life for Christ was a powerful reminder of the foundation of our mission. To enter through the Holy Door of the Basilica in this Jubilee Year of Hope was an unforgettable blessing. It reminded me that the mission entrusted to us as bishops is not our own, but the mission of Christ, who calls us to be shepherds of hope for His people.

A Time of Jubilee and Hope

A profound gift of my days in Rome was concelebrating the Canonization Mass in St. Peter’s Square alongside His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, when the Church officially proclaimed St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati among the saints. The square was filled with pilgrims from around the world, radiant with joy and hope.

The Sacred Liturgy & Readings

The Liturgy began with the stirring melodies of the Sistine Choir, offering the hymn Veni Creator to invoke the Holy Spirit. Here is one of the verses from the First Reading from the Book of Wisdom

powerfully read by Carlo's younger brother, Michele in English: "Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?"

Other readings followed in Italian, Latin, and Greek, underscoring the Church's universality.

Highlights from Pope Leo's Homily

Pope Leo drew our hearts upward: He invoked King Solomon, a young man who inherited power and wealth and yet recognized that only wisdom from on high leads the soul to true greatness—inviting us to ask for that same gift. He then turned to our two new saints: Pier Giorgio, a university student of the early 20th century, and Carlo, a modern teenager—both in love with Jesus and ready to give everything for Him. "They invite us, especially young people," he proclaimed, "not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces."

A Moment of Grace: Carlo Acutis' Parents at the Altar

Perhaps the most moving moment came when Carlo Acutis' parents rose and approached the altar. In that intimate gesture, they brought the sacred narrative of their son's life to life—his love of the Eucharist, his digital apostolate, his youthful holiness. It was a powerful reminder that saints are real people, raised in real families, called by God to transform the world through simple but extraordinary fidelity.

We stood deeply grateful to have borne witness to the birth of two new saints—a profound moment in this Jubilee of Hope. Carlo and Pier Giorgio, youthful in spirit and steadfast in love, now stand as our Patrons of Hope.

Carlo Acutis, patron of the Internet and modern youth—reminds us that holiness can flourish in the digital age when rooted in the Eucharist.

Pier Giorgio Frassati, the "man of beatitudes," patron of charity, student life, and outdoor adventure—teaches us that joy, social justice, and youthful exuberance can mirror Christ's own heart.

Audience with Pope Leo XIV

Our time concluded with an audience with Pope Leo. His fatherly presence, pastoral heart, and encouragement to live as servants after the model of Christ, deeply touched me. What struck me most deeply was the Holy Father's pastoral closeness. He is truly a pope with the heart of a servant—simple, approachable, and deeply attentive. He spent more than four hours with us, taking time not only to speak, but also to listen and to meet each bishop personally.

In his words, Pope Leo reminded us of the Gospel passage from St. Mark, where James and John are asked to sit at the right and the left of Christ in His glory (Mk 10:35–45). Jesus responded by teaching that greatness in the Kingdom is found not in power or honor, but in humble service: "Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant."

The Holy Father encouraged us to embrace this same path of service in our episcopal ministry—to be shepherds who walk with our people, to serve rather than to be served, and to reflect the servant's heart of Christ.

Reflecting on this encounter, I carry a profound gratitude: for the gift of communion with the successor of Peter, for the fraternity of my brother bishops, and for the renewed call to serve God's people with humility and love.

May Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, shining lights of hope in our times, intercede for us and inspire our young people to love Christ, to live the Beatitudes, and to witness with joy the beauty of the Gospel. May they guide our families to raise children of faith and help us all to fix our eyes on the eternal hope found in Jesus Christ.

With fatherly blessing and love in Jesus Christ,

✠ Artur
Bishop of Phoenix

On the Road with Bishop Artur

Bishop Artur continue in his travels representing our Eparchy. In this newsletter we share photos of his pilgrimage in Uniontown in late August and also of his trip to Europe in September where he visited the Vatican and then family in Hungary.

[If you missed the September newsletter, we shared photos from Bishop Artur's travels throughout the Northwest as he visited parishes in Alaska, Washington and Oregon.](#)

Baby Bishops

Below Photo: Twelve of the 13 U.S. bishops in Rome for the Vatican-sponsored courses for new bishops pose for a photo on the roof of the Pontifical North American College in Rome Sept. 10, 2025. Their names are listed at the bottom of his article. (CNS photo/courtesy Bishop John Keehner)



Every September, the new bishops of the Catholic Church gather in Rome to participate in a formation course, an initiative that, since its inception in 1994, has become a genuine tradition.

During these sessions, the prelates receive from the Dicastery for Evangelization and the Dicastery for Bishops guidance and tools to carry out with greater clarity and responsibility the mission entrusted to them by the Church, through conferences, discussions, and various working groups.

A total of 192 bishops from around the world gathered on Sept. 4 to participate in these sessions, which concluded Sept. 11, when the prelates were received by Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican. (EWTN)

[The USCCB shares details about their trip and audience with Pope Leo](#), where they were counseled that being a Bishop requires both humility and creativity.

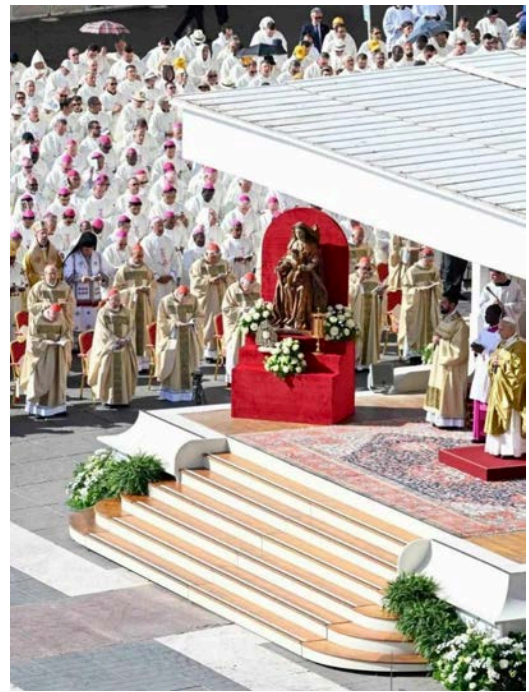
(U.S. bishops who attended the course seen in the photo, from left to right: Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Timothy J. O'Malley; Auxiliary Bishop Kevin T. Kenney of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Bishop Scott E. Bullock of Rapid City, South Dakota; Bishop-designate Ralph B. O'Donnell of Jefferson City, Missouri; Chicago Auxiliary Bishop John S. Siemianowski; Bishop-designate Thomas J. Hennen of Baker, Oregon; Bishop Richard F. Reidy of Norwich, Connecticut; Bishop John E. Keehner of Sioux City, Iowa; Chicago Auxiliary Robert M. Fedek; Bishop Artur Bubnevych of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix; Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence J. Sullivan; and Chicago Auxiliary Bishop José Maria Garcia Maldonado. Auxiliary Bishop Dennis E. Spies of Joliet, Illinois, attended but is not pictured.)

Meeting Pope Leo



Canonization of St. Carlo Acutis & St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

On September 7th Bishop Artur and the rest of the Baby Bishops attended the canonization of St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The canonization was attended by more than 80,000 people and viewed online and on television by millions of faithful believers worldwide. [Photos from Catholic News and EWTN featured below demonstrate the enormity of the event.](#)



News From the Vatican

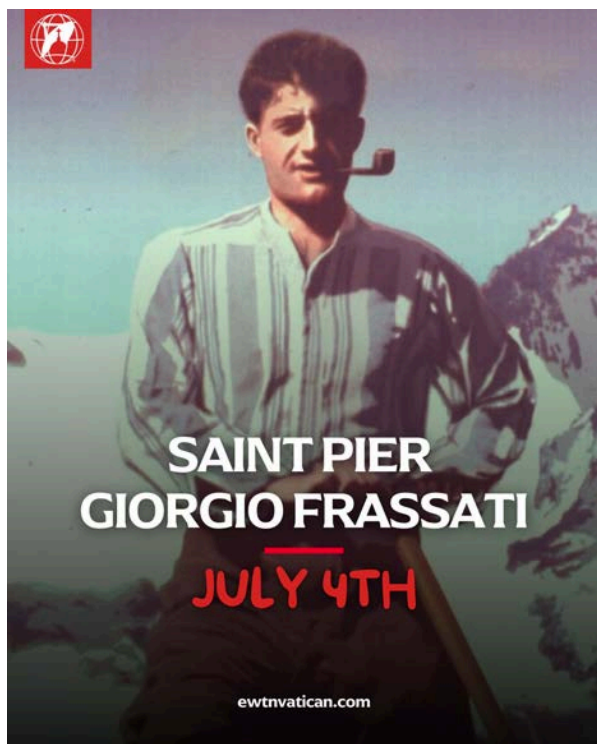


“Dear friends, Saints Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces.”

— Pope Leo XIV

Two New Saints

The canonization of two new modern-day saints has inspired pilgrimages, [movies](#) and much more. The stories of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis will live on forever in honor of their devotion to God throughout their short lives. Pope Leo, [in his homily at the canonization](#), calls on all of us to commit our lives to furthering the will of God and living out His plan.



The Man of the Beatitudes

[St. Pier Giorgio Frassati](#) (1901-1925) was an Italian young person who was affectionately called the "Man of the Beatitudes" by Saint John Paul II for his exemplary work of



[A Millenial Saint](#)

As a young child, Carlo loved to pray the rosary. After he made his first Communion, he went to Mass as often as possible at the parish across from his elementary school.

bringing comfort and happiness to those who were poor, suffering, meek, hungry, thirsty, and in need of mercy, and who was himself clean of heart, a peacemaker, and persecuted for the sake of the Gospel (cf. Mt 5:3-10). He died at the young adult age of 24 while in charitable service to the people who were sick and dying in his community. ([USCCB](#))

Carlo's love for the Eucharist also inspired a deep conversion for his mother. According to the postulator promoting his cause for sainthood, he "managed to drag his relatives, his parents to Mass every day. It was not the other way around; it was not his parents bringing the little boy to Mass, but it was he who managed to get himself to Mass and to convince others to receive Communion daily." ([Catholic News](#))

Did You Know?

The Ukrainian Cross of Gratitude is Coming to Our Eparchy

Cross to be on display at Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Anaheim

Friday, October 17th through the evening of Friday, October 24th

All are welcome to 7:30 p.m. nightly services

A "Ukrainian cross" can refer to the traditional Orthodox cross used in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic and Orthodox traditions, which has specific symbolic elements like a shorter top bar and a sloped footrest. Alternatively, in modern Ukrainian culture, the cross also refers to the Cossack cross—a type of equilateral or Templar cross—used as a symbol of military resistance, national heritage, and tribute to fallen soldiers, as seen on Ukrainian military vehicles.

The mission of the pilgrimage with the Cross of Gratitude to all capitals of the world began with the words heard on the day of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in 2003:

"Take my Cross and carry it to all the capitals of the world as a sign of gratitude to Almighty God for our salvation, which we receive from Jesus Christ."

According to the idea, born in Lviv in 2003, the mission of the pilgrimage with the Cross of Gratitude is to prepare for the Jubilee of the 2000 year anniversary of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (33-2033), and to unite the nations of the world into one family at his cross.

On March 10, 2004 in the Vatican, the Holy Father John Paul II blessed the initiators of this mission. His successor, Pope Benedict XVI, also consecrated the cross in 2006 during his pilgrimage in Krakow. Pope Francis blessed the cross and all those who lead the evangelization action in 2016. During his presence in Warsaw in 2008 at the Church of St. Anna, the Cross was blessed by Card. Kazimierz Nycz.

The pilgrimage of gratitude to all capitals of the world with an oak cross began in Lviv, where in November 2005 a large oak cross with a figure of the crucified Savior was placed in the city center. Later, such crosses were set up in Kyiv and Donetsk. The pilgrimage of the cross has already taken place in forty-six European capitals.

The Cross of Gratitude made a pilgrimage through Kviv, Warsaw, Rome, Paris, Berlin, the Baltic countries and Scandinavia to Great Britain. In many places, the Cross was present during Holy Mass, night vigils, adoration, and was carried by the faithful along the streets of towns and villages, joining Christ on his way of the cross.

Currently, the Cross of Gratitude is traveling to cities throughout North and South America. Then it will move on to Asia, Africa, Indonesia and Australia. The aim of the pilgrimage is to unite all the nations of the world into one family at the Cross of Christ. We want everyone in the world to be aware that Jesus Christ has the gift of eternal life. The cross has also been adored by Muslims and Buddhists. The pilgrimage of the Cross has been marked by numerous graces and signs of God's presence.

Become a Cyrenean and help the pilgrimage of the Cross.(Luke 23:24)



Picture from St. Ann Byzantine Church Facebook Page,

Other News

91st Annual Pilgrimage in Uniontown

The Sisters of Saint Basil the Great celebrated the 91st Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Perpetual Help from Friday, August 29th through Sunday, August 31st in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The Pilgrimage was attended by Metropolitan William Skurla, Bishop Artur Bubnevych, Bishop Kurt Burnett, Bishop Robert Pipta, and countless members of the clergy plus thousands of faithful from around the country, all of whom descended upon the monastery at Mount Saint Macrina for a weekend of spiritual devotion, confession, prayer and community under this year's theme, "Theotokos, Icon of Hope." The Eparchy of Phoenix was well represented with many of our faithful in attendance including Father Anthony Hernandez of Los Gatos, retired Father Joseph Hutsko and Father Chris Zugger, and parishioner Joanie Maher from Phoenix.

(Pictures courtesy of Fr. Hernandez and the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great Facebook)





Blessed Petro Paul Oros

Blessed Petro Paul Oros (1917-1953) by Very Rev Chris Zuger

On September 27, 2025, the Catholic Church solemnly declared that our martyr-bishop Petro Oros is a Blessed of the Church. It was recognized that he was shot *in odium fidei*, or hatred of the Faith, since he was brutally executed because of his leadership of the Underground Church. When that is established, a miraculous healing is not required; for sainthood to be granted, only one miracle will be needed.

This is significant, especially in that martyr-bishop Oros is only the fifth recognized martyr of the Byzantine Catholic Church, following the beatifications of Blesseds Theodore Romzha, Paul Gojdich, Basil Hopko, and Dominik Methodius Trčka. Like Romzha, Oros was trapped behind the new Soviet border that engulfed much of the territory of the Eparchy of Mukachevo in 1945. Like Romzha, he was victimized by the regime of Josef Stalin, which sought the complete destruction of our Church and its incorporation into Russian Orthodoxy. Like Romzha, Bishop Oros firmly resisted this and led several priests into the mountains of the Borzhava Valley, from which they began serving clandestine “parishes” that the young bishop designated.

Despite the Vatican beatifying him as a priest, we are quite certain that Oros was consecrated as a secret bishop on December 19, 1944, along with Bishop Alexander Chira. There is of course no paperwork, but there are multiples of sources that attest to the consecration, and to the fact that Oros was recognized as such by priests much older than he. After all, he was only twenty-seven in 1944, and so he was the youngest bishop in the entire Catholic Church (Romzha himself was only thirty-three at his consecration on September 21). These two young men, along with Bishop Alexander Chira who was forty-seven at his consecration, were entrusted by the Holy Spirit with leading a small Church facing the wrath of the second-most powerful nation on earth, and one committed to the obliteration of all religion. Yet they persisted in their vocations, with great courage, trust in the Holy Trinity, and regularly turning to the Mother of God for her intercession.

The life of Bishop Oros is well told in the recent book *Peter Paul Oros: His Life and Martyrdom* by Father Laszlo Puskas and published by Eastern Christian Publications (2023). There you can read about his humility, great generosity to the poor, how he served the Holy Mysteries despite being hounded by the secret police, his miraculous escapes from danger, and how he faced his executioner. He was only thirty-six years old.

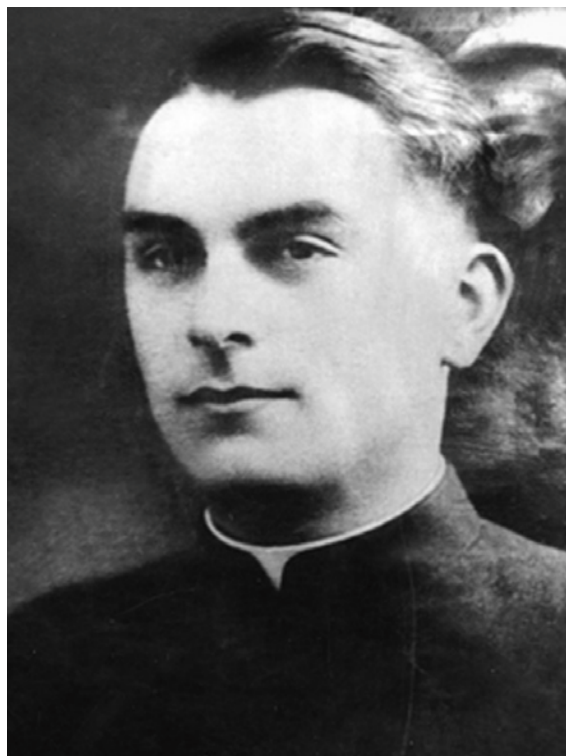
What does the beatification of this martyr mean for us in the American West? We do not face execution for our faith, but we most certainly are facing a time of virulent secularism that, as Pope

Leo XIV pointed out, avoids religion and neglects dialogue. Like young Bishop Oros, we must be able to turn to those who oppose faith and engage them in serious respectful dialogue. That also requires that we know our Faith, which means being open to ongoing spiritual education.

Oros had a difficult childhood: he was orphaned before he was nine years old, rejected by his stepmother, and passed around relatives before finding peace with the Sabov family. But he never let that make him bitter. Rather it compelled him to reach out to others, to find a new Mother in the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to become a leader among his people.

Most definitely, we must be a people of prayer. Oros was committed to keeping up a life of prayer, even while spending years on the run. He had a strong healthy devotion to the Mother of God and died holding his rosary in his extended hand. That life of prayer in turn must lead us forward in a spirit of charity towards others. Oros literally gave the shirt off his back to those who were in need, at a time when buying new clothes in Soviet stores was almost impossible.

The beatification of Bishop Petro Oros, therefore, provides us all with a role model of fidelity to Christ and His Church; of fervent prayer and trust in God; of being authentic children of Mary; of learning and proclaiming the Faith to others; and of creating parishes that reflect these important values. May he be a fervent intercessor for our Church not only in Europe, but here in America. Blessed Petro Pavel Oros, pray for us!





Upcoming Events

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 from 3 to 8 pm

Hay rides, "trunk or treat," games, fire pit & marshmallow roast, 50/50 raffle, brat's and kraut, bake sale goods and other foods for purchase!

[Keep on eye on the St. Stephen's Bulletin or follow on Facebook for updates and additional information.](#)

ST. ANNE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Join Bishop Artur at the first annual St. Anne Festival takes place on Saturday, October 11th in San Luis Obispo. RSVP no later than September 28 to guarantee a meal. To RSVP, for questions, or to volunteer to help out please contact Sean Baird at st.anne.slo.events@gmail.com

News from Around the Eparchy

St. Melany



St Melany launched Monthly Adult Enrichment classes in September. The response was fabulous with 42 registering to learn more about the office of Lector and Cantor.



St. Melany has undergone several improvements as of late including the installation of new signage (pictured right) and a new air conditioning and heating unit (pictured left).

SS. Cyril & Methodius

On September 14th, parishioners of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Spokane Valley, WA visited the nearby St. Joseph's Cemetery where the parish has a section to bless a cross that will be erected in the section as a memorial for all parishioners buried there. The steel three bar cross was made by a parishioner and will soon be powder coated and permanently placed on the cemetery parcel. We waited out the rain and then sang a Moleben to the Precious and Life-Creating Cross and blessed the cross. A perfect day to raise the cross on high and sing of salvation from the bondage of the enemy through the cross.



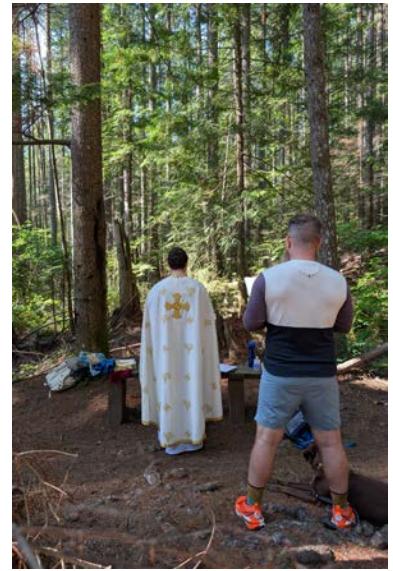
St. Stephen's

On Sun, Sept. 14th St. Stephen's in Phoenix celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross. On this occasion of remembering "our Lord Jesus Christ, Who by His death on the Cross conquered Satan and destroyed death. " Father Michael blessed parishioners wall crosses and neck crosses. The celebration took to heart the power of the Life-giving Cross with the words from the Euchologion used for blessing of Crosses for the home, "Grant that the faithful find in it a defense and refuge, a strength against all enemies, and a cure for all spiritual and physical infirmities. Grant also the fulfillment of the prayers and supplications of all those who pray before it..."(Euchologion, A Byzantine Ritual; printed by The Basilian Press, second revised edition 1986.) May every home and every room have a blessed cross to remind us of Christ's great power and glory.



St. John Chrysostom

On Saturday, the 13th of September, the teens and young adults of St. John Chrysostom Parish took part in an inaugural hike. Taking place on rugged Mt. Si, nearly one dozen parishioners hiked the four miles to the summit with more than 3,000 feet of elevation gain. Then an outdoor Divine Liturgy was celebrated in a small clearing around halfway back down the mountain. The event was a stunning success, and planning is already underway for similar events on a near monthly basis.



St. George the Great Martyr

During his pastoral visit to the Northwest, Bishop Artur took a few hours to meet with men from St. George in Olympia and the Winlock Byzantine Outreach who are discerning a possible vocation to Holy Orders. Several of these men graduated this year from Eparchy sponsored "Called By Christ Vocational Discernment Program." From left to right they are: Joshua Saylor, Deacon George Saratsis, Kadesh Swanson, Mark Kummer, Dutch Alles, Donal Turrentine, Joshua Chaney, and Evaristo Gomez



Winlock Byzantine Outreach

The men of the Winlock Byzantine Outreach sponsored an All Night Vigil of Prayer for men and boys on Sept 8 in honor of the Nativity of the Theotokos.



Announcements

Vocations Icon

A couple of months ago parishes received a poster to be hung in a prominent location at the church that it may inspire prayers for our men in formation and for those discerning. While inspiring prayer, the poster also represents the results of the prayers of our Church for an increase of courageous and willing response to God's call to serve the Church.

With the help of G.C.U. and the Society of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, parishes will be receiving within the next few weeks a new pilgrim vocations icon to journey through the households of your parish. This will be accompanied by prayer books, a sign-up sheet, and by a folder containing Harvest Helpers materials to assist you in the promotion of vocations throughout the year.

During the Great Fast of 2026, we plan to coordinate a "Called by Name" program for our Metropolitan Church. This has proven most helpful in surfacing the names of those men and women who show signs of a calling to extraordinary service in the Church. Additionally, there is now a vocations website with information and materials to support vocations, byzantinecatholicvocation.com.

Bishop's Appeal Update

Thank you to all those who contributed and made the 2025 Bishop's Appeal a success.

Bishop Artur Bebnevych wishes to express his heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God for the numerous blessings bestowed upon the Eparchy of Phoenix. In a spirit of thanksgiving, he recognizes that every good gift comes from the Lord, who continues to guide and sustain the life of the Church. With equal warmth, His Excellency extends his deep appreciation to the faithful across the Eparchy whose generous response has been a true witness of Christian love and stewardship. Their sacrifices and contributions are not only a sign of solidarity with the Church's mission, but also a living testimony of their faith in action. United in prayer and charity, Bishop Artur gives thanks for the spirit of generosity that strengthens the bonds of communion within the Eparchy and enables the Church to continue her sacred mission of proclaiming the Gospel and serving all in need.

Parish Family	Goal	Total Donations	Balance	% of Goal
Albuquerque - Our Lady of Perpetual Help	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,158	\$ (1,158)	106.4%
Anaheim - Annunciation	\$ 24,000	\$ 28,193	\$ (4,193)	117.5%
Anchorage - St Nicholas of Myra, AK	\$ 4,000	\$ 7,706	\$ (3,706)	192.6%
Denver - Holy Protection of the Mother of God	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,574	\$ (1,574)	117.5%
Fontana - St Nicholas of Myra, CA	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,421	\$ (1,421)	171.1%
Gilbert - St Thomas the Apostle	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,235	\$ (1,235)	117.6%
Las Vegas - Our Lady of Wisdom	\$ 18,000	\$ 21,752	\$ (3,752)	120.8%
Las Vegas - St Gabriel the Archangel	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,699	\$ (699)	103.7%
Los Gatos - St Basil	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,605	\$ (1,605)	114.6%
Olympia - St George	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,208	\$ (2,208)	127.6%
Phoenix - St Stephen Cathedral	\$ 31,000	\$ 33,500	\$ (2,500)	108.1%
Portland - St Irene	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,006	\$ (6)	100.6%
Sacramento - St Philip the Apostle	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,453	\$ (453)	115.1%
San Diego - Holy Angels	\$ 25,000	\$ 32,241	\$ (7,241)	129.0%
San Luis Obispo - St Anne	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,581	\$ (2,581)	114.3%
Seattle - St John Chrysostom	\$ 26,000	\$ 37,674	\$ (11,674)	144.9%
Sherman Oaks - St Mary Proto-Cathedral	\$ 32,000	\$ 40,043	\$ (8,043)	125.1%
Spokane Valley - SS Cyril & Methodius	\$ 17,000	\$ 21,985	\$ (4,985)	129.3%
Tucson - St Melany	\$ 27,000	\$ 30,346	\$ (3,346)	112.4%
Eparchy	\$ -	\$ 1,873	\$ -	-
TOTALS	\$ 300,000	\$ 364,254	\$ (62,381)	121.4%



The Byzantine Catholic
Eparchy of Phoenix
Bishop Artur Bubnevych

www.ephx.org
8105 North 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85020

Donation Link