

The **Holy Great Martyr Menas of Egypt**, an Egyptian by birth, was a military officer during the reign of the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). When the emperors began the fiercest persecution against Christians in history, the saint refused to serve these persecutors. He removed his soldier's belt (a sign of military rank) and withdrew to a mountain, where he lived an ascetic life of fasting and prayer. Once he happened to arrive in the city during a pagan festival. At the climax of the games the saint's accusing voice rang out, preaching faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. At his trial before the prefect Pyrrhus, the saint bravely confessed his faith, saying that he had come to denounce the impious. The prefect was angered, and had Menas arrested. Pyrrhus offered to restore the saint's former rank if he would offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. When he refused, he was put to cruel tortures, then he was beheaded in the year 304. Christians gathered up the martyr's relics by night and hid them until the end of the persecution. Later, they were brought to Egypt and placed in a church dedicated to St Menas southwest of Alexandria. The saint received grace from God to work miracles, and to help those in need. St Menas is noted for healing various illnesses, delivering people from possession by demons, and as a protector, especially during times of war. We also ask his help in finding lost objects.

The **Holy Martyr Victor at Damascus** was a soldier during the reign of the emperor Marcus Aurelius the Philosopher (161-180). When the emperor began a persecution against Christians, Victor refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Such obligatory sacrifices were a test of a soldier's loyalty to the gods, the emperor and the state. The saint was given over to torture, but he came through all the torments unharmed. By the power of prayer he was victorious over a sorcerer, who from that point gave up give sorcery and became a Christian. Through St Victor's prayers, blind soldiers suddenly received their sight. The torturer ordered that the holy Martyr Victor be beheaded. Hearing the commander's order, St Vincent told his executioners that they would all die in twelve days, and that the commander would be captured by the enemy in twenty-four days. As he foretold, so it came to pass. The martyrs suffered in the second century at Damascus, where their venerable relics were buried.

The **Holy Martyr Vincent of Spain** from his childhood was the disciple of a wise pastor Valerian, the bishop of the city of Augustopolis (now Saragossa, Spain). When he reached mature age, the virtuous, educated and eloquent Vincent was ordained deacon by Bishop Valerian. Since the bishop himself was not adept in speech, he gave a blessing to his deacon, an eloquent orator, to preach in church and among the people. Diocletian (284-305) sent the governor Dacian to the city of Valencia, Spain with full authority to find and execute Christians. People denounced the wise bishop and his deacon to the governor, who arrested them. After many tortures they threw the Vincent back into prison. That night the astonished guard heard him singing Psalms, and saw an unearthly radiant light in the prison. The next morning the holy martyr was condemned to be burned on a gridiron. Christians took the saint's body and buried it with reverence. This occurred in the year 304.

## STATEMENT OF HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM, ON THE DEVASTATION WROUGHT BY HURRICANE SANDY

During the past weeks we have witnessed widespread tragedy and devastation along the East Coast that has been unprecedented in our time. As the affected communities and individuals begin to rebuild their cities and their lives, we join with them in prayer and offer our total support to their efforts.

While we in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh were fortunate to have escaped much of the devastation, our hearts cannot help but go out to our brothers and sisters in the Eparchy of Passaic, whose churches and faithful were directly in the eye of the storm. I ask all the faithful of the Archeparchy to join in continued prayer for those affected by this tragedy. I also encourage everyone to do what they can to support the relief efforts currently underway across the country.

To this end, I ask that a collection be taken in all parishes of the Archeparchy on the weekend of **November 17-18, 2012**. All donations will be used to help relief efforts. The Greek Catholic Union is graciously coordinating this collection on behalf of our Byzantine Catholic Church.

To all those affected, we stand in solidarity with you. Be assured of our prayers and support as you work to restore that which has been destroyed.

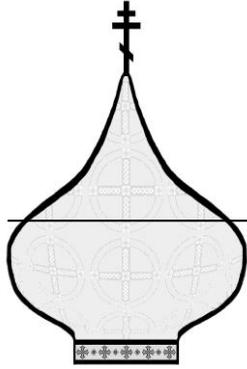
With my personal prayers, thoughts and hopes for a quick return to normalcy for all who have been affected, I remain

In Christ,



+WILLIAM

Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh



## Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

66 Riverview Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15214 | phone 412.231.4000 | fax

412.231.1697

DATE: November 8, 2012  
TO: Clergy of the Metropolitan Church  
SUBJECT: Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund

Archbishop William has issued a statement on the devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy and its effect on many parishes and parishioners within the Eparchy of Passaic.

In this statement, His Eminence also has issued a plea for help in the form of a collection to be taken the weekend of **November 17-18** in all parishes of the Archeparchy.

Passaic Eparchial Administrator Very Reverend Edward Cimbala has established a special managed fund to assist parishes and parishioners impacted by the storm. Your contributions to this fund will make a great difference in their efforts to rebuild what was lost.

**THE GREEK CATHOLIC UNION** is handling the task of coordinating this effort and re-directing all funds received to the Eparchy of Passaic.

Make checks payable to **“HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF FUND”** and direct all monies to:

**Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund  
Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
5400 Tuscarawas Road  
Beaver PA, 15009-9513**

**Parishioners also may send their contributions directly to the GCU if a collection is not being taken as a parish, or if they missed the collection date.** Please make this announcement in your bulletin(s) and provide the above address.

Sincere thanks to you and your parishioners for your willingness to assist our fellow Byzantine Catholics in their time of great need.

