

Parish Offerings – The Sunday of the Prodigal Son

3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — Feb. 12, 2017

“Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

| | |
|---|------------|
| Regular Offering (\$1,568.50) YP (\$13) | \$1,581.50 |
| Holy Days | 42.00 |
| Initial | 5.00 |
| Votive Candles | 281.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1,909.50 |

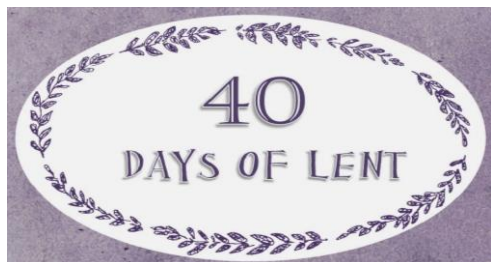
Holy Ghost Church, Northside

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Regular Offering | \$386.00 |
| Holy Days | 25.00 |
| Votive Candles | 30.50 |

Church Attendance Last Week \$441.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm. (47);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am. (95); (NS) 11:00 am. (40)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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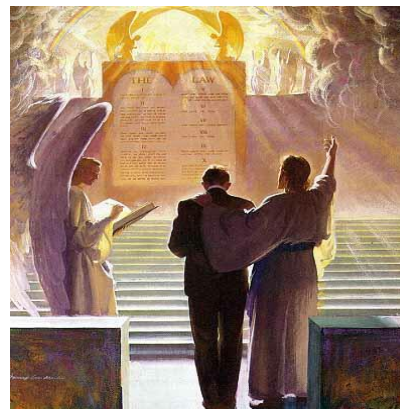
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1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE

4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 19, 2017



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor

The Reverend Deacon Michael Meaders (NS)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Web-site: www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY

All Liturgical Services LIVE on UStream: www.Ustream.tv/channel/holy-ghost-church

Sunday Divine Liturgies
Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm
Sunday (MR) 9:00 am
Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m.

Holy Day Divine Liturgies
w/Great Vespers (Oblig)
(MR): 7:00 pm
Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm

Daily Divine Liturgy
M-F (MR) 8:00 am
Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am

Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.

Holy Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.

Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact pastor one year in advance; Pre-Cana Classes required.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.

GCU Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Margaret Belinas (412) 331-3577 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.

Social Hall Rental: (MR) Contact Church Office.

New & Returning Parishioners: Welcome! Please register by phoning the Church Office.

Remember the Church in Your Will: Please be so kind as to remember the Church in your last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

When the Most High descended and confused tongues, He scattered the people; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all men to unity. Therefore, with one voice, let us glorify the Most Holy Spirit (Matins of Pentecost Sunday).

Feb 19, 2017

Christian Greeting

Volume VII, Number 8



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

The Sunday of Meat-Fare

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — The Terrible Judgment

SUN., Feb 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop Valeriano & Kallop Families

Washington's Birthday Observed (cf. article)

Mon., Feb 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia (Miklos) Sibenik Son: Steven

Tue, Feb 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Lubas Bernadette Gunkel

Wed., Feb 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Eisenman Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

Thrs, Feb. 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Marks Paula & Jeffrey Reimer



REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** (your choice)
for reparation for the sins of abortion & the destructive sin of racism in our country

Fri., Feb 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marie + John Jumba M/M Rudy Himmelreich

Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics

Sat., Feb 25 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Jay D. Mowery Mary Ann Smoley
(1st ann of passing 2/22)

Anticipated Sunday Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Cheese-Fare

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr. (birthday 2/20) + Pat Petruna

The Sunday of Cheese-Fare

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday

The Expulsion from the Garden of Eden



SUN., Feb 26 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret Kurtanich (birthday 2/21) Children

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

2:00 p.m. (MR) Forgiveness Vespers w/anointing of Oil of Gladness
Initiating The Great Fast Season.

General Announcements

All Birthdays will be published in SOT each week so that prayers may be offered on these special occasions. Please advise the Church office if your special day does not appear or if you wish your name and date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Birthdays: Feb 20 – Monica Lee Curry, Margaret Dubensky; John Marks Feb 21 – Lester Best, Michael Muska.

Pray For the Ill, Infirm & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Elizabeth Petruna, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, GERARD SLAGLE, Michael Spisak, Mildred Terrek, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Julia Wovchko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Susan Dragosh, Doris Naughton.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.

MASONIC VILLAGE (1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Pregarz.

MARIAN MANOR (2695 Winchester Dr., Pgh, 15220): MICHAEL BARBUSH, Irene Bednar.

CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.

VALENCIA WOODS OF ST. BARNABAS (85 Charity Place, Valencia, PA 16059): Eleanor Kapko.

SUNRISE OF EAST COBB (1551 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta, GA 30062): AGNES KNOLL.

CARING HEIGHTS (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Margaret Belinas.

UPMC MERCY HEALTH CENTER (1515 Locust St, Pgh, PA 15219): MARLENE PFEIFFER.

OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Michael Harsh.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What did Pope Paul VI say when he predicted the detrimental effects contraception would have on marriage? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** In section 17 of his encyclical [Humanae Vitae](#) Pope Paul VI wrote that (artificial) contraception would have the following consequences: 1. open wide the way for marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards; 2. the government might force contraceptives upon married couples; 3. Loss of respect for women; 4. A loss of humility regarding humanity's role, we would begin to see ourselves as the ultimate masters of our nature.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

Continue to burn before the real presence of our Lord, God & Savior Jesus

February 19 — February 25, 2017

(MR): In memory of Anna & Michael Goyda & Mary & John Sijka

offered by Grand-Dgtr: Mary Ann Goyda

(NS): In memory of Esther M. Kallop

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Grand-Children

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017

McKees Rocks Announcements

BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND SPIRIT — Emma Joy Usouski was Reborn of Water and



Spirit and became a full member of the Church through the *Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Baptism, Chrismation and First Eucharist* last week on the *Sunday of the Prodigal Son, February 12, 2017*. Her parents are Steven & Andrea (Lucas) Usouski of Coraopolis (pictured on the left). Sponsors were Richard A. Moore and Danielle M. Moore (pictured on the right). The Patron Saint assigned to Emma is Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God (commemorated on Feast of the Annunciation, March 25). May God grant to Emma Joy, Peace, Health & Salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

LENTEN PIROHI SALES WILL BE STARTING THIS WEEK — We will commence our seven week Pirohi Project this Friday for The Great Fast Season. The dates for sales are **February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7**. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, and/or by phone on Wednesdays from 9:00

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. @ (412) 331-5155. We will only be making a limited amount under this new format. Eat-ins will still be available. Please leave your name, phone number and order on the voice mail if there is no answer. We are going to need everyone's assistance in getting the word out to the public. Please take a few posters and place them where others will notice them. The posters are located at the entrances of the Church.

PLACE YOUR ORDER!

PARISHIONER ASKS YOUR PARTICIPATION — The Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh is eagerly planning our first Emmaus Purse Bash, to be held on **Saturday, March 4, 2017** at the Holy Trinity Parish Social Hall in Robinson! Tickets are \$40.00 and the door open at 6:00 p.m. It's going to be a fantastic evening of women coming together to support Emmaus over food, drinks, fashion, and fun! For additional information, please contact Holy Ghost Parishioner, Nancy Lecci (412) 608-9190. The Website: www.emmauspgph.org.



Northside Announcements

FEW SANCTUARY LAMPS STILL REMAINING — If you are interested in sponsoring our Sanctuary Lamp that continues to burn before the True Eucharistic Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ each week, please know that there are only a very few remaining. This is a great gift in remembering your departed loved ones or perhaps expressing thanksgiving for favors received or simply requesting a special intention from Divine Providence. Please phone the Church Office (412) 771-3324 for available dates. Your stipend gift helps subsidize our Church candle cost while freeing the little that we do take in for utilities.

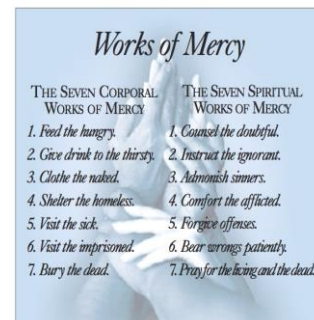


TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — Evidence of REPENTANCE is EXPRESSED COMPASSION
(Matthew 25: 31-46)

What do we mean by "Meat-Fare"? — Meat-Fare Sunday indicates a farewell to meat inasmuch as in the early Christian Church meat was no longer eaten from this time on



throughout The Great Fast season (today is comparable to Marti Gras of the Western Church). In the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe the season of The Great Fast the Byzantine Catholic Ruthenian (Rusyn) faithful practiced "strict abstinence" (no meat and dairy products) for the entire Lent including Holy Week. Being an agrarian society with harsh weather conditions, a minimal amount of labor was performed, and a greater concentration was given to the Holy Fast. However, even in our technologically advanced American society, we must make time to participate in The Great Fast services and maintain

at least minimal fasting practices if we have the desire to express our love for the Lord. In this spirit, the Byzantine Catholic Church sets before us today the Last or "Terrible Judgment." Those, whom the Church was unable to convert through its instruction on the mercy of God in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, are now presented with the fear of hell in an attempt to affect them. The liturgical services are designed to fill us with salutary fear and sorrow for our sins. One of the requisites for repentance is the law of love by which Christ at His Judgment will measure all of us. Jesus describes in detail the Terrible Judgment. Compassion and mercy were branded by early philosophers as weakness, but in reality they are the signs of a nobility of heart. Christ has taught us that all those who are filled with love for Him should realize that whatever they do for the poor and the afflicted is done for Him. In describing the Last Judgment, we are led to hope for mercy if we have been charitable to our neighbors. We must always realize that our Lord is merciful in the highest degree, but He is also just.

Time Magazine: There's No Such Thing as a National Presidents' Day Holiday

By Melissa Chan: Most Americans on Monday will mark the so-called Presidents' Day holiday ... But, contrary to popular belief, on a national level there is no such thing as Presidents' Day. The federal holiday is officially called "Washington's Birthday," and it celebrates George Washington, the country's first commander-in-chief. It has kept the name since its establishment as a legal holiday in 1879, and no Congress has ever moved to rename it "Presidents' Day," according to the Center for Legislative Archives. (It's also not a "national holiday," as that concept doesn't really exist either; in the U.S., legal holidays must be established separately by the states and the federal government.) **George Washington and Martin Luther King Jr. are the only two Americans whose birthdays are federal holidays in the U.S.** Washington's birthday was observed every year as a federal holiday on Feb. 22 — his recognized date of birth — up until 1968, when **Congress passed a law to celebrate the first president on the third Monday in February instead.** The change was part of an effort to create more three-day weekends to spur "the spiritual and economic life of the nation," Congress noted, even though that meant the holiday could technically no longer be commemorated on Washington's actual birthday. Some individual states, however, have changed the name of the holiday as it affects state employees, choosing to call it the more general name in order to honor Washington's fellow February baby, Abraham Lincoln.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 24 Pirohi Project Commences.
 February 26 (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 27 **PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.**
 (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.
 March 1 **PURE WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.**
 March 3 **PURE FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.**
 March 5 I Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Chrysostom, Pittsburgh @ 4:00 p.m.
 March 8 II LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
 March 10 II LENTEN FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
 March 11 2nd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

Saint of the Week

Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania February 20



Saint Leo was bishop of the city of Catania, in Sicily. He was famed for his benevolence and charity, and his Christian love for the poor and the vagrant. The Lord granted him the gifts of healing various illnesses, and working miracles. When Saint Leo was Bishop of Catania, there was a certain sorcerer named Heliodorus, who impressed people with his fake miracles. This fellow was originally a Christian, but then he rejected Christ and became a servant of the devil. Saint Leo often urged Heliodorus to repent of his wicked deeds and return to God, but in vain. Once, Heliodorus impudently entered the church where the bishop was serving, and tried to create a disturbance, sowing confusion and temptation by his sorcery.

Seeing the people beset by devils under the sorcerer's spell, Saint Leo realized that the time for gentle persuasion had passed. He calmly emerged from the altar and, tying his omophorion around the magician's neck, he led him out of the church into the city square. There he forced Heliodorus to admit to all his wicked deeds. He commanded that a fire be lit, and jumped into the fire with the sorcerer. Thus they stood in the fire until Heliodorus got burnt. Saint Leo, by the power of God, remained unharmed. This miracle brought Saint Leo great renown during his lifetime. When he died, a woman with an issue of blood received healing at his grave. The body of the saint was placed in a church of the holy Martyr Lucy (December 13), which he himself had built. Later on, his relics were transferred into the church of Saint Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours (November 11).

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:
Wednesdays & Fridays during the Lenten Season @ 6:30 p.m.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST WEEK OF HOUSE BLESSINGS — Our Pastor will finish all house blessings this week prior to The Great Fast Season. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office and set up an appointment. It is so important to have your house blessed EVERY year. To have God's blessing renewed annually keeps it away from evil influence, cleanses it from the sin committed in it, and imparts God's protection upon it. Families with children should teach them so that it becomes an annual event, and they learn to incorporate it as they enter adulthood in this Faith tradition.



SLAVJANE LENTEN FOOD FUNDRAISER — In order to offset their operational costs so that they may continue to perform and display the Rusyn Heritage, the Slavjane Folk Ensemble will be selling homemade potato dumpling Haluski and vegetarian soup during the Season of the Great Fast. The Haluski will be distributed after March 2 and the Soup after March 16. The cost is \$8.00 each. For additional information or to place an order, you may contact parishioners, Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351 or parishioner, Cindy Saber (412) 926-3553.



DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SCHEDULED — Please be advised of the following changes, rather than the ones published in The B.C.W. The Great Fast Deanery Vespers will be celebrated, each Sunday during The Great Fast Season at 4:00 p.m. preceded by The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:30 p.m. The following churches have been selected to host a different week: (1) **March 5 — St. John Chrysostom Church, Pittsburgh — Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskevich;** (2) **March 12 — St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair — Homilist: Fr. Thomas Schafer;** (3) **March 19 — St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia — Homilist: Fr. Frank A. Firko;** (4) **March 26 — St. Pius X Church, Carrick — Homilist: Abbot Leo Schlosser;** and (5) **April 2 — SS. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne — Homilist: Fr. Dennis Bogda.** This will be a great penitential practice of prayer & self-denial if you wish to take it upon yourselves. Please make an effort to join us. Fellowship of meatless soups and bread will be served following the liturgical services.



FORGIVENESS VESPERS NEXT SUNDAY — Next Sunday Afternoon, **February 26, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.** in McKees Rocks, we will gather to bring in the Penitential Season of The Great Fast. Anointing with blessed oil will be administered to strengthen us on the Lenten Journey. Please set aside this time and join us as we embark in this season of penance.

SERRA CLUB SPONSORS UPCOMING RETREAT — The Byzantine Serra Club is sponsoring a Day of Retreat on **Saturday, March 18, 2017** at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary. The members of the Serra Club welcome and invite everyone to join them for this special day. For additional information contact Serran Member Patricia Bove (412) 462-6385. The cost is \$20.00

Join Us for the Daily Divine Liturgy!
It's the best future investment for the other side!