

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Cross-Veneration – Mar. 4, 2018

“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 (\$3,261.50) YP (\$10)	\$3,271.50
Holy Days (\$35) Eastern Europe (\$852)	887.00
B.C.W. (\$28) Easter Décor (\$5) Coffee Social (\$31)	64.00
Votive Candles	83.00
-	<hr/>
	\$4,305.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$510.00
Holy Days (\$45) Eastern Europe (\$5)	50.00
Improvement (\$30) B.C.W. (\$14) Easter Décor (\$25)	69.00
Votive Candles	56.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$685.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (50);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (85); (NS) 11:00 am (43)

4th Great Fast Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (29); 4th Great Fast Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)

3rd Universal All Souls Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (15)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of St. John Climacus — March 11, 2018



Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

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

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

“Am I Irish? Are you kidding? I was born green!”

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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.

GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
Lodge 390 offers Insurance and
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(412) 771-3324**

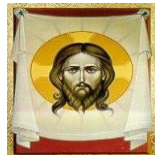
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Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am
Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.
Holy Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery 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 Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 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

O John, our father, God-bearer, hermit of the desert and angel in the flesh, you received heavenly gifts by your fasting, vigils and prayers. You healed the sick and those coming to you with faith. Glory to Him Who gives you strength! Glory to Him Who crowned you! Glory to the Lord Who heals all through your intercession (Troparion of Great Vespers of St. John Climacus Sunday).

March 11, 2018 Christian Greeting Volume VIII, Number 10



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 St. John Climacus

4th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 11 (28) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop (birthday 3/7) Valeriano & Kallop Families
4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Spirit Church, Pittsburgh (Oakland), preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.
Mon, Mar 12 (29) *7:30 a.m. (MR) + Dimitri Gramata (53rd ann of pass 3/9) Son: Basil & Eleanor
Tue, Mar 13 (30) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Conversation of J. Daniel Kathleen J. Murphy

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed. Mar 14 (31) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours
6:30 a.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Thrs, Mar 15 (32) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Matins with Great Metanias
*1:00 p.m. (MR) + Olga J. Connolly (memorial) Brother: Peter & Norma Kacsur

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri. Mar 16 (33) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours
6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

AKATHISTOS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar 17 (34) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Olga + Nicholas Stashkevych Kacsur & Herron Families

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fifth and Final Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) Health of Karen (Hubal) Meloni Hubal Family
& Michelle Keene

The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

5th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 18 (35) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Chambers (7th ann of pass 2/25) Wife: Julia & Dgtrs.
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Cathedral, Munhall, preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..

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

Mar 11 – John Harbist; Mar 12 – Raymond Zoldos; Mar 13 – David Kacsur; Mar 15 – MARTHA LUCAS; Mar 16 – Elizabeth Poznak; Mar 17 – Matthew Harsh.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuнас, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, Alice Sejka, Millie Sotak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, Julia Wovchko, SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.
HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.
BRIGHTON REHAB & WELLNESS CENTER (246 Friendship Circle, Beaver, PA 15009): Mary Susan Dragosh.

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

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

CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.
FAIR OAKS ASSISTED LIVING (2200 W. Liberty Ave., Pgh, 15226): ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK.

LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): William Zavidny.
CRANBERRY PLACE (5 St. Francis Way, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066): MARY SAHAYDA
VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I've been forgiven in confession of certain sins but find myself dwelling on them. Should I confess them again? **A. Answer by Catholic Apologist:** If you feel compelled to confess these absolved sins anew because you experience renewed feelings of guilt, we encourage you not to. Through the ministry of his priest, God has indeed absolved you of these past sins. However, absolution doesn't necessarily mean you will automatically be freed from all of the pain and guilt associated with those sins. When that pain and guilt resurfaces again, simply pray to God that you renew your sorrow for these sins, thank him for his forgiveness, and ask his continued help in your moving forward in the right direction. And persist in thanking God for his absolution when bad memories resurface. Again, the reality of God's forgiveness of our sins is not necessarily accompanied by an automatic and permanent feeling of peace. But with the help of God, his priests and related sacramental graces, and the help of others, you will in time more deeply experience his peace (see John 14:27).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 11 — March 17, 2018

(MR): In memory of Octavia & Michaeline Balandiat

offered by Alice & Anna May Sejka

(NS): Health for the Ill & Homebound of Both Parishes

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Velma Seman

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of **Bonnie Glosser, 50**, of McKees Rocks, PA, at Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, on Saturday, March 3, 2018. She was the mother of parishioner and altar-server, Daniel Rowe. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Interment will be in private at a future date. Our most sincere sympathies are extended to her Son Daniel and his family members. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Bonnie, and remember her forever. *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat!*



PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUE THIS WEEK — The remaining Pirohi Sales are: **Mar. 16 & 23**. Orders are taken the Wednesday prior to the sales from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. **We still are still in need additional volunteers to be on the front line pinching, especially as we get closer to Easter.**



BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH GROUP HALUSKI SALE TODAY — Our Holy Ghost Youth Group will be having a Haluski Sale following Sunday morning's Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement. The proceeds will help them to attend the Archeparchial Youth Rally in Latrobe in the month of July. Let us support their project!

Northside Announcements

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of **Catherine (Duli) Frketich, 95**, Pittsburgh, PA, on Saturday, February 24, 2018. She was the mother of parishioner and Parish Advisory Council member, Joyce Smiechowski. The Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home handled the arrangements. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Rite Church. Interment was at Jefferson Memorial Park Cemetery on Feb. 27. Our most sincere sympathies are extended to her Daughter Joyce and the Frketich, Duli and Smiechowski Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Catherine, and remember her forever. *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat!*



THOMAS SUNDAY 50/50 RAFFLE — Since we do not have the Ham & Turkey Bingos any longer, we will take up a few 50/50 raffles to bring in a little more income. We will also work with GCU Lodge 390 to have funds matched! Tickets are \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00; and 13 for \$10.00. Please support this project! Drawing on **Thomas Sunday, April 8, 2018.**

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PUSSY WILLOWS FOR PALM SUNDAY — We are still in need of Pussy Willows for our Palm (Flowery) Celebration on the weekend of March 24-25. Some are ready to be ready to be harvested. We could always use additional branches. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church Office.



(MR) CHANDELIERS SPARKLING — A big "thank you" is extended to our anonymous cleaner of the Church chandeliers. They truly sparkle and are now ready for the Radiant Season of Pascha! May God richly reward you for your sacrificial effort!

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.

Join us in this Byzantine-Ruthenian Tradition to the Theotokos!

Fourth Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Encouragement Sunday: Necessity of Prayer & Fasting (Mk. 9: 17-31)

"I do believe! Help my lack of trust!" The healing of the possessed boy is



one of the longest miracle stories in Mark's Gospel (only the expulsion of the demons in 5:1-20 is longer). It is also one of the more detailed stories, becoming a bit complicated in the repetition of some of those details (e.g., in v. 22 the father of the boy tells Jesus what he has *already* told him in v. 18; the crowd gathers twice within the same story. Despite its length and detail, there is a very clear and simple message that Mark wishes to convey: **Anything is possible to one who trusts, and trust is deepened by prayer and fasting!**

Although Jesus is the one who heals the boy, it is the father's profession of faith that Mark holds up for his readers to imitate. Even in the most desperate moments, when prayer and trust seem useless, Jesus invites his followers to go one step further and pray like the boy's father: "I do believe! Help my lack of trust!"

The Ladder of Divine Ascent

The **Sunday of St. St John of the Ladder (Climacus)** is the fourth Sunday of The Great Fast It commemorates St. John Climacus (+ 649 a.d.), the author of the work The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Each of the Sundays of The Great Fast has a special theme. This Sunday's theme is St John's witness to the real spiritual struggle needed for entrance into God's Kingdom. It also is **encouragement** for the faithful to keep the goal of their Lenten efforts, for according to the Lord, *only "he who endures to the end will be saved"* (Mt 24:13). The Ladder describes how to raise one's soul and body to God through the acquisition of ascetic virtues. Climacus uses the analogy of Jacob's Ladder as the framework for his spiritual teaching. Each chapter is referred to as a "step", and deals with a separate spiritual subject. There are thirty Steps of the ladder, which correspond to the age of Jesus at his baptism and the beginning of his earthly ministry. Within the general framework of a 'ladder', Climacus' book falls into three sections. The first seven Steps concern general virtues necessary for the ascetic life, while the next nineteen (Steps 8-26) give instruction on overcoming vices and building their corresponding virtues. The final four Steps concern the higher virtues toward which the ascetic life aims. The final rung of the ladder—beyond prayer, stillness, and even dispassion is love. **Do you know where this icon is in our (MR) Church?**



LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH MORE OFTEN!

IT'S A GREAT SPIRITUAL INVESTMENT!!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 11 Daylight Savings Time returns
..... IV Deanery Penitential Vespers: Holy Ghost Church, Oakland @ 4:00 p.m.
..... preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.

March 14 Week V: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours.
..... (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

March 15 Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m.

March 16 Week V: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
..... (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ chanting of the Akathistos Hymn.
..... Pirohi Sales.

March 17 .. Akathistos Saturday imploring aid of the Theotokos in our ascetical practices (MR) 9:00 a.m.

March 18..... Final Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John the Baptist Cathedral @ 4:00 p.m.
..... preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.

March 21 Week VI: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours.
..... (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

March 23 Week VI: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
..... (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
.....The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast. & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.

March 24 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.

March 25 Feast of the Annunciation & Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine
Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.
... Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions by extra Confessors.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (March 26 through March 31)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
..... (NS) Confessions @ 6:15 a.m.

Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Thursday (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Friday (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

**(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm
FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION**

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Sat. (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great
Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m. — (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing
of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John
Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

APRIL 1 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY
(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal
Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of
Paschal Foods.

SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

THE GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE W/GREAT METANIES

The Matinal (Morning) Prayer of the Church containing the Canon of this beloved Saint of the Byzantine Church is celebrated on the 5th Thursday of The Great Fast. It is a poetic lamentation of a Christian soul who discovers how much God loves him. Several Great Metanies are made while saying **“Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!”** The beautiful liturgical service assists us in expressing our love to God and sorrow for our sins.

General Announcements

(cont.) The soul is purified in this penitential service. Come and join us as we pray together glorifying our Great & Holy Triune God.

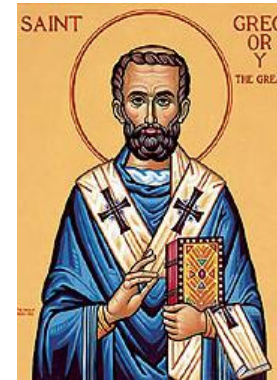
AKATHISTOS SATURDAY

This liturgical term A = No; KATHISTOS = Sitting. It is a beautiful poetical service STANDING and is celebrated in honor of the Most Holy Theotokos on the 5th Saturday of **The Great Fast**. It assists us in beseeching her aid in defending us against the dark spiritual forces of evil, especially during this time of The Great Fast, and exhorts our fidelity to continued prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Let us seek the Holy Virgin Mary's assistance following the Morning Divine Liturgy.

Saints of the Week

Our Holy Father Gregory Dialogus — March 12

Saint Gregory Dialogos, Pope of Rome, was born in Rome around the year 540. His grandfather was Pope Felix, and his mother Sylvia (November 4) and aunts Tarsilla and Emiliana were also numbered among the saints by the Roman Church. Having received a most excellent secular education, he attained high government positions. Leading a God-pleasing life, he yearned for monasticism with all his soul. After the death of his father, Saint Gregory used his inheritance to establish six monasteries. At Rome he founded a monastery dedicated to the holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called, where he received monastic tonsure. Later, on a commission of Pope Pelagius II, Saint Gregory lived for a while in Constantinople. There he wrote his Commentary on the Book of Job. After the death of Pope Pelagius, Saint Gregory was chosen to the Roman See. For seven months he would not consent to accept this service, considering himself unworthy. He finally accepted consecration only after the persistent entreaties of the clergy and flock. Wisely leading the Church, Saint Gregory worked tirelessly in propagating the Word of God. As a Papal Ambassador to the imperial court in Constantinople prior to his papacy, he was spiritually edified when attending the Presanctified Divine Liturgy in Constantinople. When becoming pope, he **compiled the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in the Latin language for the Western Rite**. Affirmed by the Sixth Ecumenical Council, this liturgical service was accepted by all the Eastern Churches.



DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY — The Great Fast Deanery



Vespers is celebrating, each Sunday during The Great Fast Season at 4:00 p.m. preceded by The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:30 p.m. *It is a good time to fulfill your Easter Duty.* The remaining churches have been selected to host a different week: **(4) March 11 – Holy Spirit Church, Oakland – Homilist: Fr. Frank A. Firko; and (5) March 18 –**

Saint John Cathedral, Munhall – Homilist: Fr. Thomas Schaefer. 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.