

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Palsied Man – Feb. 25, 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 (\$1,697) YP (\$7)	\$1,704.00
Holy Days (\$29) Eastern Europe (\$1)	30.00
Initial (\$5) B.C.W. (\$14) Easter Décor (\$5)	24.00
Votive Candles	217.50
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	\$1,975.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$418.00
Holy Days (\$20) Initial (\$5) Utilities (\$40) B.C.W. (\$14)	79.00
Spec. Don (In mem of Agnes & Anthony Knoll by Son: William)	100.00
Votive Candles	43.80

Church Attendance Last Week \$640.80

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (38);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (90); (NS) 11:00 am (32)

3rd Great Fast Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (35); 3rd Great Fast Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)

2nd Universal All Souls Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (21)



Time for GOD and COD



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY
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GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
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Lodge 390 offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Tina (412) 859-9597

This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office (412) 771-3324

Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 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 THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY — March 04, 2018



God's Love Never Fails

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.
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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 lofty Cross of my Lord, show me the divine image of your beauty. Grant that I may venerate your most pure glory. I speak to you and surround you with reverence as if you were alive (Matinal Canon of Cross-Veneration Sunday).

March 4, 2018 Christian Greeting Volume VIII, Number 9

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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY

3rd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 4 (20) ***8:50 a.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
***10:50 a.m. (NS)** + Agnes Knoll Rita & Ron Hirschfield

**Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross prior to each weekend Divine Liturgy*

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church,
Braddock preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..

Mon, Mar 5 (21) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary K. Krisko Theresa Kundrat

Tue, Mar 6 (22) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Agnes Bialek Drtr: Eileen Finnegan & Family
(10th ann of passing)

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed, Mar 7 (23) **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

Thrs, Mar 8 (24) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Josephine Radan (Birthday) Friend

Commemoration of the Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri, Mar 9 (25) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours



6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty

4th UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar 10 (26) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fourth Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Loretta Yakubik (10th ann. of passing 3/13) Dgrtr: Evelyn

The Sunday of St. John Climacus

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

SUN., Mar 11 (27) **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 Saints Peter & Paul Church,
Braddock 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 4 – Leyte Tomchak; **Mar 5** – Mary Elizabeth Stashkevych **Mar 7** – Andrew Hrishenko, Madylin Usouski, WILLIAM POLOKA; **Mar 10** – Michael Kachuta.

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. Does natural family planning require couples to have as many children as they can afford/handle? **A. Answer by Catholic Apologist,** Not at all. Couples are free to have as many or as few children as they choose based on their circumstances and their relationship. Obviously, it would be a very good thing if couples were as generous as possible in having children. Yet this generosity has to be measured according to their capabilities and relationship. The point is clear: we are never allowed to use immoral means either to avoid conception or to foster it; rather, we should strive to give our children the best possible upbringing, materially, spiritually, and educationally. There is no way that the use of NFP, even if the couple is not being as generous as they could be, amounts to a grave sin, because the marriage acts undertaken while using it are perfectly moral.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 4 — March 10, 2018

(MR): **In memory of the Hubal Family**

offered by Hubal Family

(NS): **In memory of Gregory Gramata**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Uncle Basil & Aunt Eleanor (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Olga J. Connolly, 88**, of McKees Rocks, PA, at the Villa St. Joseph, Baden, PA, on Friday, February 16, 2018. She was the sister of Peter (Norma) Kacsur. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Parastas was celebrated on Saturday, Feb. 24.. Interment will be private. Our most sincere sympathies are extended to the Kacsur, Herron & Stashkevych Families; **Margaret Dubensky, 96**, of McKees Rocks who passed away at the Rosewood of the Ohio Valley, McKees Rocks on Monday, February 26, 2018. She was the mother of parishioner, Thomas Dubensky. Arrangements were by the Deely Funeral Home, Punxsutawney, PA. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated at Saints Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Punxsutawney on Saturday, Mar. 3. Interment took place at the parish cemetery. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathies to the Dubensky family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servants Olga & Margaret, and remember them forever. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'!



PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUE THIS WEEK — The remaining Pirohi Sales are: **Mar. 9, 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 NEXT WEEK — Our Holy Ghost Youth Group will be having a Haluski Sale following next Sunday morning's Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement. The proceeds will help them to attend the Archieparchial Youth Rally in Latrobe in the month of July. Let us support their project!

Northside Announcements

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! Please support this project! Drawing on **Thomas Sunday, April 8, 2018**.

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



CLOCKS "SPRING-AHEAD" NEXT SUNDAY — Many countries observe DST, and many do not. Many countries use DST to make better use of the daylight in the evenings. Many people believe that DST could be linked to fewer road accidents and injuries. The extra hour of daylight in the evening is said to give children more social time and can boost the tourism industry because it increases the amount of outdoor activities. DST is also used to save energy and reduce artificial light needed during the evening hours — clocks are set one hour ahead during the spring, and one hour back to standard time in the autumn. The United States, Canada and some other countries extended DST in 2007. **The start date is the second Sunday in March (previously the first Sunday in April) through to the first Sunday in November (previously the last Sunday in October).**



Third Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Cross-Veneration Sunday: We Bow to Your Cross, O Master"
(Mark 8: 34 – 9:1)

On the Third Sunday of The Great Fast, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our



Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

What Does It Mean to take Up the Cross Daily?

What does this mean, "take up a cross"? It means you will bear with whatever is troublesome, and in this very act you will be following Christ. When you begin to follow Christ according to His teaching and precepts, you will find many people contradicting you and standing in your way, many who will not only deride you but even persecute you. Moreover, this is true, not only of pagans who are outside the church, but also of those who seem to be in it visibly.... Although they glory in merely the title of Christian, they continually persecute faithful Christians. Such belong to the members of the church in the same way that bad blood is in the body. Therefore, if you wish to follow Christ, do not delay in carrying His cross; tolerate sinners, but do not yield to them. Do not let the false happiness of the wicked corrupt you. You do well to despise all things for the sake of Christ, in order that you may be fit for his companionship. *St. Caesarius of Arles sermons 159.5.*



Pope Teaches Byzantine Form of the "Sign of the Cross"

At the beginning of the 10th century, Pope Leo IV, instructed his clergy to hold their fingers in the proper manner when blessing the Sacred Gifts, with two fingers outstretched, and the thumb hidden behind, between them, by which the Trinity is symbolized. He instructed that the people of the Faith should imitate the example of the Priests. By means of the Sign of the Cross to express the elements of our Faith. The thumb and first two fingers joined together indicate belief in the Three Divine Persons as One God. The two remaining fingers lying in the palm of the hand to signify the Divine and the Human natures of Christ united in His One Person -*Pope Leo IV (928 a.d.)*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

- March 4 III Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Braddock, PA @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.
- March 7 Week IV: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
- March 9 Week IV: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ reading of the Hramoty. Pirohi Project.
- March 10 Fourth Universal All Souls Saturday.
- 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.

Saints of the Week

The 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste — March 9



According to St. Basil of Caesarea (370-379 ad) in a homily stated that forty soldiers who had openly confessed themselves Christians were condemned by the prefect to be exposed naked upon a frozen pond near Sebaste (present-day Sivas in Turkey), on a bitterly cold night, that they might freeze to death in 320 ad. Among the confessors, one yielded and, leaving his companions, sought the warm baths near the lake which had been prepared for any who might prove inconstant. One of the guards set to keep watch over the martyrs beheld at this moment a supernatural brilliancy overshadowing them and at once proclaimed himself a Christian, threw off his garments, and joined the remaining thirty-nine. Thus the number of forty remained complete. At daybreak, the stiffened bodies of the confessors, which still showed signs of life, were burned and the ashes cast into a river. Christians, however, collected the precious remains, and the **relics** were distributed throughout many cities; in this way, veneration of the Forty Martyrs became widespread, and numerous churches were erected in their honor. The **liturgical** book of the Eastern Church lists the names of the Forty Martyrs as follows: Hesychius, Meliton, Heraclius, Smaragdus, Domnus, Eunoicus, Valens, Vivianus, Claudius, Priscus, Theodulus, Euthychius, John, Xantheas, Helianus, Sisinius, Cyron, Angius, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecclitius, Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Candidus, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Gorgonius, Eutyches, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valaerius, Philoctimon, Severian, Chudion, and Aglaius.

General Announcements

CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATIONS —

During the Great Fast Season, the Church is remembering in a special way all those who have departed in the true faith, especially through the reading of the Hramoty (List of submitted names). It is an act of continual love for our beloved who have passed into eternity by rendering the Alms of Prayer. If you haven't submitted the special envelope in your envelope box with the names of your beloved, please do so immediately so that they may be included in next Saturday's 4th All-Souls Saturday. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.



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: **(3) March 4 – Saints Peter & Paul Church, Braddock – Homilist: Fr. Wesley Mash; (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.