

**Parish Offerings – 36<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — Jan 27, 2019**

“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 (\$2,011) YP (\$16) .....	\$2,027.00
Holy Days .....	73.00
B.C.W. (\$112) Initial (\$25) YP (\$2) .....	139.00
Votive Candles .....	166.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,405.50

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$425.00
Holy Days .....	25.00
B.C.W. (\$28) Utilities (\$40) Initial (\$5) .....	73.00
Votive Candles .....	35.35

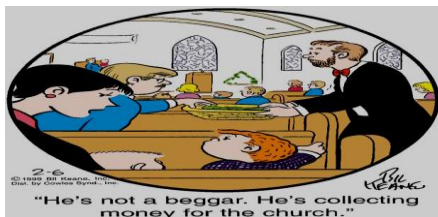
**Church Attendance Last Week \$558.35**

Sat. (MR) 4:00 p.m. (44)

Sun. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (75); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)

Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (2); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (cancelled)

Encounter of the Lord, Feb 1 & 2 — (NS) 6:00 pm (4); (MR) 9:00 am (6)



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday**  
**Postfestive of the Encounter — February 3, 2019**



**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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

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

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com) then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream**

**Valerian F. Szal**  
Funeral Home – 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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Moon Township 15108  
Phone: (412) 262-9141  
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Nancy C. Debranski  
*Sewing, Alterations, Custom  
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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  
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  
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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 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 Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.  
Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.  
Social Hall Rental for (MR) Parishioners: Contact Rectory Office: (412) 771-3324.  
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).

February 3, 2019

Seasonal Greeting

Volume IX, Number 5



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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### Sunday of Zacchaeus

#### The 1<sup>st</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — Postfestive of Encounter Feast


**SUN., FEB 3** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John A. Jumba (4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Sharon & Matt Dworakowski  
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Feb 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Lorena Trembulak (memorial) Anonymous

Tue, Feb 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Susan Gramata Cusatis Parents: Eleanor & George (3<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing)

Wed., Feb 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Dziki  Beverly Michalski

Thrs, Feb 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carn

 **REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE** (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for those ill, suffering and homebound members of our parishes

Fri, Feb 8 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Muska (6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Gladys Muska & Family



#### Final Day of the Encounter Feast

Sat, Feb. 9 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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#### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Julianna + John Bordas Dgtr: Dolores & Steve Kosko

### Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

#### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday

**SUN., FEB 10** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka Children  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop Valeriano & Kallop Families (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/19)

## 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 4 – Madelyn Nazak; Kerri Poloka; Feb 7 – THERESA FECIK; Feb 8 – Peggy McCusker, NICHOLAS SPONTAK.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuinas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Betty Spisak, EVELYN VENTO, Anita Wolsko, 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 Dr., Sewickley, PA 15143): Marjorie Preganz.

**MARIAN MANOR** (2695 Winchester Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): Irene Bednar.

**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.

**LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** (1028 Benton Ave., PGH 15212): MARY SAHAYDA

**VETERANS HOSPITAL** (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

**NEW HOPE ASSISTED LIVING** (300 Union Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15202): Helen Hopey.

#### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** Is it okay for me to receive scholarship money from the Minnesota Masonic Charities? I am not enrolling in the Masons, and I don't agree with their beliefs, but I am in desperate need of money for college. **A. Answer from Catholic Answers:** That's a good question. We don't want to give scandal, i.e., lead others into sin, by virtue of our actions (see CCC 2284-87). If the local Masonic group plans on publicizing its winners and also noting that you're a Catholic, I would decline, because it would give the impression that there are a certain fellowship and collaboration between the Catholic Church and Masons that do not exist. Instead of giving scandal, better to take out a loan, get a job while going to school and also earn your degree in five or six years than the normal four. If, on the other hand, the local Masons are happy to support a local Catholic kid without using it as an opportunity to give a promotional misimpression about their status in the eyes of the Church, I think receiving the scholarship would be arguably okay.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**February 3, 2019 — February 9, 2019**

(MR): **In memory of Ference Honthy**

offered by Dgtr: Peggy Lucas

(NS): **Birthday Blessings for Helen Lucy** (birthday 2/9)

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2019

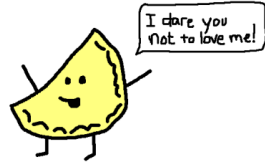
offered by Sister: Velma Seman

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2019



## Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

**PIROHI REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING TODAY** — The Lenten Season will soon be here. Once again, we will discuss whether we will have a Pirohi Project. We will meet in the Church Basement for a short but important meeting following today's Sunday Divine Liturgy. This meeting will determine whether or not the Project will be possible.



**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK** — The members of the PAC are reminded of the meeting slated for **Monday, February 11, 2019 @ TBA**. Please place this date on your agenda.

## Holy Ghost, Northside

**GRATITUDE TO ALL** — A special thank you is extended to all who stayed to dismantle the Christmas decorations last week. Your sacrificial and unselfish gesture made it possible to complete the task within reasonable time. Team-Work is awesome! God bless you for your assistance! May God grant you many happy and blessed years in health and happiness! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



**SANCTUARY LAMPS STILL AVAILABLE** — We have only a few remaining (NS) Sanctuary Lamps for your intentions. They are \$10.00 each and are burned before the Tabernacle of Our Lord Jesus' Real Presence throughout the week. Submit your request and stipend in a regular envelope and who it is that is offering.

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING** — The members of the PAC are reminded of the meeting slated for **Tuesday, February 12, 2019 @ TBA**. Please place this date on your agenda

## Are Bad Catholics Still Catholics?

*(Continued from the article: Are Bad Catholics Still Catholic)* — acts" (CCC 1463).... It is even more clear that someone who still professes to be Catholic—even unfaithfully—remains so, even if it is purely in a "bodily" way and not "in his heart." Although there is no doubt that public figures—as well as private individuals—gravely compromise their communion with the Church when they reject key Catholic teachings and values, this doesn't mean that they literally cease to be Catholics. Bad Catholics are still Catholics. And that just makes their betrayal of the Faith worse.

**FIRST ALL SOULS FORTHCOMING** — The first of five All Souls commemoration will take place on Feb. 22-23. You are encouraged to remember your loved ones by submitting their first names on the envelope in your contribution box. If you have participated last year, you need only to write new names. The Church has the previous names. It is so important that we remember and commemorate our loved ones who have gone into eternity!

## Today's Gospel Meditation The 1<sup>st</sup> of Five Sundays Prior to the Great Fast

### The **DESIRE** to Follow Jesus (Luke 19: 1-10)

Today commences the first of five Sundays in preparation to the Lenten Season



which is still one month away. The theme of "Repentance" is set before us and continues for two forthcoming Sundays. Today lesson is the first Pregreatfast **Sunday of Zacchaeus**. His name means PURE or JUSTIFIED. HE was the wealthy man of Jerusalem who gathered revenue for the Roman government, but who became a disciple of Christ (Luke 19:1-10). A "chief publican," Zacchaeus might have been of a higher grade than Matthew. Although not one of Christ's expected converts, Zacchaeus had heard much about Christ and **DESIRED** to see Him for himself. When ultimately Christ came his way there were two obstacles in his way—the crowd, and his own short stature. But he quickly overcame both hindrances. Our Lord called Zacchaeus

down and invited Himself to his house. Zacchaeus was a sinner and Christ saved him. Quickly Zacchaeus revealed the depth of his **DESIRE** and surrendered to his newly found Master. There came an immediate and generous restitution. His **DESIRE** for Jesus teaches us that through Repentance we take our first serious step to surrender ourselves to Him and follow it by good deeds.

### Are Bad Catholics Still Catholics?

(The following abridged article (January 30, 2019) by Catholic Apologist: Jimmy Akin is taken from the website: [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com). Due to a lack of space the highlighted portion)

Last week, on the forty-sixth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, New York governor Andrew Cuomo enthusiastically signed that state's "Reproductive Health Act." Many commentators observed that New York now has the most radical pro-abortion law of any state in the country, and criticism of Cuomo quickly followed. Part of the criticism was based on the fact that Cuomo is a baptized Catholic; many were aghast at the spectacle of a Catholic taking such a radical pro-abortion stance.... Unfortunately, Cuomo is not alone. We live in an age in which many Catholics who are public figures betray key teachings and values of the Faith. Of course, our age is not unique. There have always been bad Catholics—including bad Catholics in high places.... To answer this question, we need to look at the Church's official documents. According to the Second Vatican Council: He is not saved . . . who, though part of the body of the Church, does not persevere in charity. He remains indeed in the bosom of the Church, but, as it were, only in a "bodily" manner and not "in his heart" (Lumen Gentium 14). By losing the gift of charity, a bad Catholic ceases to be a member of the Church "in his heart," but he remains in it "bodily.".... By being baptized in the Church—or by being received into it after being baptized elsewhere—one becomes subject to the laws of the Church, and these obligations remain even when one betrays the Faith in fundamental ways..... There are penalties for committing these crimes, including excommunication (can. 1364 §1). However, even excommunication does not mean that one ceases to be a member of the Church. Instead, as the Catechism explains, excommunication is "the most severe ecclesiastical penalty." It "impedes the reception of the sacraments and the exercise of certain ecclesiastical (cont. near the back).

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 2-3 ..... Youth Bake Sale & Monthly Coffee Social following the weekend Divine Liturgies.  
February 11 ..... MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ TBA  
February 12 ..... NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ TBA.  
February 22 ..... NS 1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Saturday Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.  
February 23 ..... MR 1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.  
March 3 ..... (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.  
March 4 ..... **PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.**  
(MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.

## Saint of the Week

### The Holy, Righteous Simeon the God-Receiver & Prophetess Anna — February 3

Righteous Simeon the God-Receiver was, according to the testimony of the holy Evangelist Luke, a just and devout man waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him



(Luke 2:25). God promised him that he would not die until the promised Messiah, Christ the Lord, came into the world. Ancient historians tell us that the Egyptian pharaoh Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-247 B.C.) wished to include texts of Holy Scripture in the famous Library at Alexandria. He invited scholars from Jerusalem, and the Sanhedrin sent their wise men. The Righteous Simeon was one of the seventy scholars who came to Alexandria to translate the Holy Scriptures into Greek. The completed work was called "The Septuagint," and is the version of the Old Testament used by the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Simeon was translating a book of the Prophet Isaiah, and read the words: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a Son" (Is 7:14). He

thought that "virgin" was inaccurate, and he wanted to correct the text to read "woman." At that moment an angel appeared to him and held back his hand saying, "You shall see these words fulfilled. You shall not die until you behold Christ the Lord born of a pure and spotless Virgin." From this day, Saint Simeon lived in expectation of the Promised Messiah. One day, the righteous Elder received a revelation from the Holy Spirit, and came to the Temple. It was on the very day (the fortieth after the Birth of Christ) when the All-Pure Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph had come to the Temple in order to perform the ritual prescribed by Jewish Law. When Saint Simeon beheld their arrival, the Holy Spirit revealed to him that the divine Child held by the All-Pure Virgin Mary was the Promised Messiah, the Savior of the world. The Elder took the Child in his arms and said, "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for mine eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel" (Lk. 2:29-32). Simeon blessed the All-Pure Virgin and Saint Joseph, and turning to the Mother of God he said, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Lk. 2:34-35). The holy Evangelist continues: "And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity; and she was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not leave the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming at that very hour, also gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption at Jerusalem" (Luke 2:36-38). The holy righteous Simeon the God-Receiver died at a great age (Tradition says he was 360). His holy relics were transferred to Constantinople in the sixth century.

## General Announcements

**SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES AVAILABLE** — It is an ancient tradition of our Byzantine Catholic Church to have candles solemnly blessed on February 2, the *Feast of the Encounter of the Lord with Simeon*. Yesterday's feast we continued this solemn tradition. Candles symbolize "Christ the True Light that has come into the world." Candles are now available for purchase following the Divine Liturgy. Every home should have a blessed candle to be used throughout the year such as on anniversaries of Baptism, Chrismation, First Eucharist, Wedding Anniversaries, passing of a loved one, storms, etc. Candles are now available following the Divine Liturgies



**INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE**— If MR Members would like a record of their 2018 individual financial report, please contact the office between 9:30 am to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If no answer, please leave a request on the voice-mail. Since there are few NS Members, Individual Financial reports are available in the narthex. Please discontinue using your 2018 envelopes. Your number may have changed!



**HOUSE BLESSINGS FINISHING** — Our pastor is just about completed with house blessings. If you would like to be a part in continuing this ancient tradition of the Annual House Blessing, please contact the Church office A.S.A.P. All Homes should always be blessed each year with this renewal blessing.

**DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SCHEDULED** — *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 10 — St. Pius X Church, Carrick – Homilist: Fr. Adam Hortsman;** (2) **March 17 — St. John the Baptist Church, Lyndora – Homilist: Monsignor Russell Duker;** (3) **March 24 – St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair – Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskevich;** (4) **March 31 – St. John Chrysostom Church, Greenfield – Homilist: Fr. John Cuccaro;** and (5) **April 7 – Saints Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum – Homilist: Fr. Radko Blicher.** 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.



**THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD SUBSCRIPTIONS** — For those who wish to receive *The B.C.W. Archieparchial Newspaper* throughout 2019, we need your subscription of \$14.00 immediately. The Church Office is ready to send all subscriptions to the chancery all together. *We must receive the full amount.* If you are not currently receiving it, please submit the envelope in your contribution box, and write NEW on it. *The B.C.W.* is a good source for keep up on the happenings in the Archeparchy. Please consider subscribing and supporting it!

