

## Parish Offerings – The Sunday of Cheese-Fare 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — Feb. 26, 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 (\$1,865) YP (\$19)	\$1,884.00
Holy Day	112.00
Initial (\$30) YP (\$10)	40.00
Votive Candles	147.50

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$2,183.50
Holy Days	\$484.00
Improvement (\$10) Initial (\$5) Utilities (\$78)	28.00
Votive Candles	93.00
	72.50

### Church Attendance Last Week \$677.50

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (77); (NS) 11:00 am (38)

Forgiveness Vespers – (MR) 2:00 pm (25)

Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (15); (NS) 6:00 pm (8)

Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (31); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)



THERE'S SOME SALESMAN HERE WITH A GOOD DEAL ON AN APPLE ... ARE WE INTERESTED?



THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT

**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
Fax: (412) 331-6688  
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Supervisor, CFSP  
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THESE  
40 DAYS  
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**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Triumph of True Worship — March 5, 2017



**WALKING  
WITH  
JESUS**  
A Lenten Journey

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**

All Liturgical Services LIVE on UStream: [www.Ustream.tv/channel/holy-ghost-church](http://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 Beliuas (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!

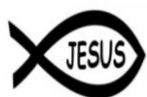
# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

The grace of truth has shown forth; \* that which was formerly prefigured obscurely is now openly fulfilled. Behold, the Church is clothed as with a heavenly garment by the icon of the Body of Christ, which was prefigured by the Ark of the Covenant. She preserves the True Faith so that we might keep without blemish the image of the One Whom we worship. May those who do not believe this be covered with shame! For we glory in the image of the incarnate Word, whom we venerate but do not worship as an idol. O faithful, let us hold it in reverence and sing: Save Your people, O God, and bless Your inheritance. (Great Vespers of the Sunday of True Worship).

Mar 5, 2017

Christian Greeting

Volume VII, Number 10



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP</b>			

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy**

**SUN., Mar 5** (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Lipchick (birthday 3/3) Son: Frank & Carol Lipchick

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

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Chrysostom, Pittsburgh

Mon. Mar 6, (8) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Agnes Bialek Dgtr: Eileen Finnegan & Family  
(9<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

Tue, Mar 7 (9) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Charles Wovchko (birthday) Shirley Kotik & Family

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**WED. Mar 8** (10) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

**40 Martyrs of Sebaste**

Thrs, Mar 9 (11) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Kundrat Dorothy & Sam Karpa  
(4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/8)

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**FRI. Mar 10** (12) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours

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

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

## 2<sup>ND</sup> UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

**Sat, Mar 11** (13) 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Palsied Man — Second Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Loretta Yakubik (9<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/13) Dgtr: Evelyn

## THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy**

**SUN., Mar 12** (14) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop (birthday 3/7) Children & Grand-Children

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair.

## 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:** Mar 5 – Mary Elizabeth Kacsur; Mar 7 – Andrew Hrishenko, WILLIAM POLOKA, Madelyn Usouski; Mar 9 – John Singel; Mar 10 – Michael Kachuta; Mar 11 – John Harbist.

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Michael Harsh, Dolores Kosko, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, 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 Preganz.

**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.

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

**Q.** I go to a protestant school, more like a school that welcomes all Christians and not just Protestants, and I participate in their worship services. Can I, a Catholic, receive the protestant communion? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** No, the Church does not permit Catholics to receive communion in Churches not in union with the Catholic Church. There are rare exceptions that can be made for Catholics who do not have access to a Catholic Church or minister but this would only be for Churches that have a valid Eucharist (e.g. the Eastern Orthodox Churches). The Church does not permit intercommunion under any circumstances with Christian faith communities that do not have a valid Eucharist. Simply being at a Protestant service does not meet the standard necessary for the exception to the prohibition of intercommunion.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**March 5 — March 11, 2017**

(MR): In memory of Mary & Charles Porter

offered by Daughters

**Health & Welfare of Alice McElwain**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Sister: Mary Ann Smoley (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

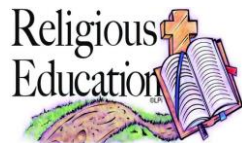


## McKees Rocks Announcements

**LENTEN PIROHI SALES CONTINUE THIS WEEK** — The dates for the next sales are March 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 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155.

We will only be making a limited amount under this new format. Eat-ins will still be available. We are going to need everyone's assistance in getting the word out to the public.

**E.C.F. ENCOURAGES PARENTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE** — At this past

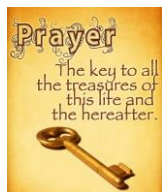


Thursday's Teacher meeting, a discussion arose that many students are not attending the religious education program on a regular basis. It is imperative that students attend these vital spiritual formation classes. This is not an option. Be reminded that the primary education and formation teachers are the parents. Our Eastern Formation Program serves as an auxiliary component in assisting the parents and godparents (sponsors) in this responsibility. We ask your cooperation in your children's spiritual education.

## Northside Announcements

**HAM BINGO STILL BEING CONSIDERED** — Whether to have the Palm Sunday Ham Bingo is still being considered at this time. The reason for the delay is conscripting responsible volunteers to assist in running this annual program. In the past both preparing the Social Hall and the cleanup details have been accomplished only by a small group. If you can assist us, please contact our cantor, Ed Spontak, and let him know that you are willing to make the sacrifice! We sure could use this project to help meet our fiduciary expenses!

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**SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES OFFERED AT BOTH CHURCHES** — The Greatfast Liturgical Services are being prayed each week at both of our parishes. You are encouraged to attend at least one of these church services during this sacred penitential period. For some it is a sacrifice since we live busy lives, but a necessary part of our Lenten Journey. Let your sacrifice be for the intention of your family members to return to the Church of True Worship praying for their physical health and spiritual welfare.

**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 vegetarian soup during the Season of the Great Fast. The Soup will be distributed 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.

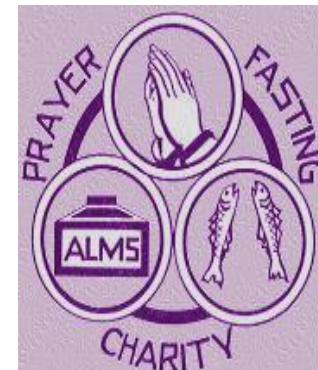


**REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATIONS** — During the Great Fast Season, the Church is remembering in a special way all those who have departed in the true faith, especially through the reading of the Hramoty (List of Submitted names). It is an act of continual love for our beloved who have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

## THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

*The preceding abridged text is taken from an informal lecture Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira gave on February 23, 1964. It's message is just as pertinent today.*

It is said that today's world is profoundly against penance and mortification. This is quite true .... We tend to be against penance because of the principle behind it. This consists in the fact that man is a sinner. **All sin is an insult to Divine justice and majesty, and therefore the sinner must make reparation** by suffering in proportion to the delight that he should not have had but did. Penance therefore is a kind of restitution. Just as a thief who steals money is required to repay it, so also from the standpoint of the designs of Divine Providence, the sinner who steals illicit pleasures to which he is not entitled must also pay something back. According to the scales of Divine justice, this is done by suffering in proportion to the harm that was done. In the act of penance, we find recognition of sin, the gravity of sin, and God's offended majesty. We realize that our offense cannot be appeased with empty words and ideas but with self-control and self-imposed suffering in reparation for what was done. More importantly, penance recalls to mind that **we are conceived in Original Sin and thus have disorderly instincts that must be overcome and fought**. Even when there is no fault of our own, it is often advisable, and many times indispensable, to crush the impulses of these disordered senses by doing something that breaks the cravings of the flesh and thus to practice penance. There is nothing more opposed to the modern mentality than the idea that man is weak, inclined to evil, and must fight his instincts and senses. Watch any modern movie, open any novel or romance or enter any public place and we see that the idea of penance is far away. **Human pride, even more than sensuality, rebels against penance....** God wants us to have the right spirit, principles, the ideas of penance and not just the concrete acts. When penance is done in the right spirit, it above all punishes our pride and makes us bow to the reality of human misery in general and also our individual misery.



## The Penitential Prayer of St. Ephrem

**To be prayed each day of The Great Fast**

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power and idle chatter (*Great Metany*).

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love (*Great Metany*).

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins, and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen (*Great Metany*).

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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.
	..... Pirohi Sales.
March 11	..... 2 <sup>nd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
March 12	..... II Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair @ 4:00 p.m.
March 14	..... Evening of Repentance, St. John Cathedral, Munhall @ 7:00 pm (cf. article). All welcome!
March 15	..... III LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
March 17	..... III LENTEN FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
	..... Pirohi Sales.
March 18	..... 3 <sup>rd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

## Faith Event of the Week

### The Triumph of True Worship Celebrated Today

#### Commemorated on the First Sunday of The Great Fast

A "guileless image" is so important in our relationship with God as in Nathaniel's case. An Icon (meaning image) depicts a guileless character of its representative created in God's image. In the



Old Testament, due to the danger of idolatry, God forbade the Jews to worship the "carved image or likeness" of any creature (Ex. 20:4-5; Duet. 4:15-20). Early Christians, too, in the face of paganism and idolatry, adhered to these Mosaic ordinances. After the victory of Christianity over paganism (313 A.D.), when Christian theology was sufficiently developed, the Fathers of the Church gradually admitted the public veneration of icons. *The iconoclastic fury of Emperor Leo the Isaurian (717-741), during which the leading defenders of the icons were St. Germanus of Constantinople (d. 733) and St. John Damascene (d. 749) made the*

*Church define her teachings. In reply, at the seventh Ecumenical Council of Nicea (787), the Church's teaching concerning the veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed. The Fathers explained that the veneration of icons, theologically, was based on the mystery of incarnation, since in the person of Jesus Christ we received revelation not only of the "Word of God" (Jn. 1:1-14), but also of the "Image of God," as attested by St. Paul saying that Jesus is the "image (eikon) of the unseen God." (Col.1:15) Jesus Himself testified: "To have seen Me is to have seen the Father!" (Jn. 14:9).*

### Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

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

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

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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: **(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: Monsignor Russell A. Duker; 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.

**AN EVENING OF REPENTANCE SCHEDULED —** So much has changed since 1517. In that year, Martin Luther published his 95 Theses, setting in motion the Protestant Reformation, which would see Catholic and Protestant Christians estrange from one another for nearly 500 years. This year, Catholic and Lutheran Christians in our region and across the world will commemorate the quincentenary of the Reformation together, seeking mutual forgiveness and reconciliation, and celebrating renewed relationship. Several dignitaries will be present including our Archbishop Skurla, and Roman Rite Bishop Zubik. There is an estimated crowd of 200-300 people expectant to be in attendance. The first of three events throughout the area will take place as an *"Evening of Repentance,"* at St. John Cathedral, Munhall on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.** A penitential fellowship will then take place at the Social Center comprising of a meatless soup and bread. Everyone is cordially invited.



Forgiveness

**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

**SUBMIT SUBSCRIPTION TO ARCHIEPARCHIAL NEWSPAPER —** We are in the process of sending all submitted new and renewal payments to *The Byzantine Catholic World*. There are several who have not turned in their 2017 subscription envelope. In order to keep your B.C.W. from being terminated, please submit payment **by Sunday, March 19**. This newspaper serves as an excellent source of reporting all news in the Archeparchy and throughout the metropolitan province.



**GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH LIVE ON INTERNET —** Our parishes were just recently made aware of the LIVE internet broadcast from the Uzhorod Cathedral in Ukraine, and various other LIVE communications from Klokocov, Lutina, Michalovce and Litmanova, Slovakia. Keep in mind Uzhorod is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Time, and Slovakia is 6 hour ahead. The Divine Liturgy can be viewed in Church Slavonic, Hungarian, and the Slovak languages. These LIVE services also include several other liturgical services. Their internet access is: [www.grkat.tv](http://www.grkat.tv)