

## Parish Offerings – The Sunday of Triumph of True Worship

**First Sunday of The Great Fast — Mar. 5, 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 (\$2,902) YP (\$21)	\$2,923.00
Holy Day (\$105) Easter Décor (\$5)	110.00
Coffee Social	44.35
Votive Candles	94.45

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$1,034.00
Holy Days (\$35) Easter Flowers (\$40)	75.00
Improvement (\$75) Initial (\$20) Utilities (\$35) BCW (\$34)	164.00
Votive Candles	49.00
	<b>\$1,322.00</b>

## Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (54);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (90); (NS) 11:00 am (50)

*II Presanctified Divine Liturgy — Wed. (MR) 7:00 pm (23); Fri. (NS) 6:00 pm (13)*

## Time for GOD and COD



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

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

**The Sunday of the Palsied Man — March 12, 2017**



*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](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 Beliuinas (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

*I have sinned against You without measure, and my punishment will be great indeed: the gnashing of teeth and the signing that knows no comfort; the fire of Hades and the darkness of the damned. Give me tears of repentance, O most just Judge, that by fasting, I may obtain forgiveness of my sins as I cry out to You, O Christ my Lord: Have mercy on me in Your great goodness (Penitential Vespers of the Sunday of The Great Fast).*

Mar 12, 2017

Christian Greeting

Volume VII, Number 11



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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## THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSID 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.

Mon, Mar 13, (15) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dimitri Gramata Son: Basil & Eleanor  
(52<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 3/9)

Tue, Mar 14 (16) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Bednar, Jr. Rippole & Bednar Families  
(6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/19)

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**WED. Mar 15** (17) 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

Thrs, Mar 16 (18) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen "Jack" Rusnak Slavjane Folk Ensemble  
(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing 3/18)

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**FRI. Mar 17** (19) 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

## 3<sup>RD</sup> UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

**Sat, Mar 18** (20) 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Cross-Veneration Sunday — Third Sunday of The Great Fast

\*3:50 p.m. (MR) + Geraldine Nazak Rose Nazak & Family

## CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY

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

**SUN., Mar 19** (21) \* 8:50 a.m. (MR) + John Chambers Wife: Julie & Daughters  
(6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/25)

\* 10:50 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia

# 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 12 – Ray 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, 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 Belianus.

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

**Q.** What does blessed are the poor in spirit mean? **A. Answer by Catholic**

**Answers:** In the Scriptures the literal poor are considered especially close to God because of their complete dependence upon Him. They place their trust and confidence in God rather than material possessions and worldly power. In the Gospel of Matthew this "blessedness" is extended to all people, irregardless of their status in the world, who recognize their complete dependence and reliance on God. To be "poor in spirit" is to be humble, recognize our sinfulness, and to trust in more in God than in the things of the world (see Matthew 6:25-34).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**March 12 — March 18, 2017**

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

offered by Family

(NS): **In memory of Mike, Andy, George, Eddy & Tommy Seman**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Sister: A. Velma Seman (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017





## McKees Rocks Announcements

**LENTEN PIROHI SALES CONTINUE THIS WEEK** — The dates for the next sales are March 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. We especially need pinchers! Please come to help us fulfill orders!

PLACE YOUR ORDER!

## Northside Announcements

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of former parishioner, **Nicholas Moyta, 94**, of Tustin, CA on Thursday, February 23, 2017. He was the brother of our parish vocation, Sr. Martha Moyta, O.S.B.M. of Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown. His Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated last week at Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, Anaheim, CA. Local funeral arrangements were handled by the Orion C. Pinkerton Funeral Home, Avalon. A Panachida was offered at the funeral home yesterday, March 10 at 11:00 a.m. followed by the Interment at Highwood Cemetery, Northside Pittsburgh. Our parish offers its most sincere condolences and prayerful support to Sr. Martha and the entire Moyta Family. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, Nicholas, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'



**NEW BOILER RETAINING TANK INSTALLED** — Recently, our retaining tank had to be replaced due to several holes that developed over the years. Without it, the boiler system would not function. A used one is even hard to come by. It was decided that a new one had to be purchased. Although it was a wise investment, it was also costly. Matthew Mechanical installed the unit. The total price, including labor, was \$2,320.00. It's the bottom tank.



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**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 a quart. For additional information or to place an order, you may contact parishioners, Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351 or parishioner, Cindy Saber (412) 926-3553.



**Why do Catholics pray for the dead?** — By Fr. Joe Scott

The earliest Scriptural reference to prayers for the dead comes in the second book of Maccabees. The books of Maccabees were among the latest written books found in the Old Testament. They recount the struggle of the Jewish people for freedom against the Seleucid Empire, around 100-200 years before the birth of Christ. They are written from an Orthodox Jewish point of view. The second book of Maccabees tells how Judas Maccabee, the Jewish leader, led his troops into battle in 163 B.C. When the battle ended he directed that the bodies of those Jews who had died be buried. As soldiers prepared their slain comrades for burial, they discovered that each was wearing an amulet taken as booty from a pagan Temple. This violated the law of Deuteronomy and so Judas and his soldiers prayed that God would forgive the sin these men had committed (II Maccabees 12:39-45).

## THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

### Second Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

The Meaning of Offering Individual & Collective Penance

**Gospel of Palsied Man — Forgiveness of sins leads to a new life** (Mark 2: 1-12)

Sinning is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of



strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually. However, **the sinful character of mankind is something which we all share in common and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each have to do our own fair share of the effort.** And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us. The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his palsied state.

They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways bad enough, we can find ways to do so. Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the palsied man. Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

## 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*).

**Having Suffered the Passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us! (Great Metany)**

**Preterp'ivij za nas Strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozija, pomiluj nas! (Great Metany)**

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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 16 ..... Slavjane Vegan Vegetarian Soup Sale.  
 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.  
 March 24 ..... Vigil of the Feast of the Annunciation w/ reading of the Hramoty (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.  
 March 25 ..... Feast of the Annunciation with the reading of the Hramoty (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

## Saint of the Week

### Transposition of the Relics of St. Nicephorus, Archbishop of Constantinople

March 13

Saint Nicephorus was a dignitary at the court of the empress Irene (797-802),



and then after receiving monastic tonsure, he became known for his piety. In the year 806 he was elevated to the patriarchal throne. The saint was a zealous defender of the holy Icons. When the Iconoclast emperor Leo the Armenian (813-820) came to rule, the saint in 815 was exiled to

Prokonnis, where he died in the year 828. In the year 846 the holy relics of Patriarch Nicephorus were opened, and were found incorrupt and fragrant. They transferred them from Prokonnis to Constantinople and placed them for one day in Hagia Sophia, and then transferred them to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The saint's hands are preserved in the Hilandar monastery on Mount Athos. The saint left behind three writings against Iconoclasm. The main Feast of Saint Nicephorus is celebrated on June 2, but today we commemorate the finding and transfer of his holy relics.

### 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!**

**ATTEND THE PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY ON WEDNESDAYS**

**(MR) @ 7:00 p.m. & FRIDAYS (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.**

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**AN EVENING OF REPENTANCE SCHEDULED THIS WEEK** — 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

**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: **(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.

**LAST WEEK TO 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 or interrupted, please submit payment **by next Sunday, March 19.** This newspaper serves as an excellent source of reporting all news in the Archeparchy and throughout the metropolitan province.



**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 the next three special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.

**SERRA CLUB SPONSORS UPCOMING RETREAT** — The Byzantine Serra Club is sponsoring a Day of Retreat on this **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.