

**Parish Offerings – The Sunday of the Palsied Man
Second Sunday of The Great Fast — Mar. 12, 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 (\$1,905) YP (\$7)	\$1,912.00
Holy Day	65.00
Initial Offering	10.00
Byzantine Catholic World	28.00
Votive Candles	109.05
	<hr/>
	\$2,124.05

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$319.19
Votive Candles	79.00
	<hr/>
	\$398.19

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (57);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (83); (NS) 11:00 am (44)

III Presanctified Divine Liturgy — Wed. (MR) 7:00 pm (28); Fri. (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)

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LIVE LENT**
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD



Valerian F. Szal
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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 THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY — March 19, 2017



Lent Is Good For
the Christian

"Yet even now,"
declares the Lord,
"return to me with all
your heart."
Joel 2:12



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.

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

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).

Mar 19, 2017

Christian Greeting

Volume VII, Number 12



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 19 (21) * **8:50 a.m. (MR)** + John Chambers Wife: Julie & Daughters
(6th 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

Mon, Mar 20, (22) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George W. Hornak Sister: Helena Barth & Family

Tue, Mar 21 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Jennie Timulak Alex S. Bilak & Tomchak Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

WED, Mar 22 (24) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours



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

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

Thrs, Mar 23 (25) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Charochak M/M Myron Spak & Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

FRI. Mar 24 (26) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours



6:00 p.m. (NS) *Anticipated Feast of the Annunciation*

+ All Souls w/reading of Hramoty

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



FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanlje

Sat, Mar 25 (27) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + All Souls w/ reading of Hramoty



Sunday anticipated St. Basil the Great Divine Liturgy of Sunday of St. John Climacus

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Suzanna + Michael Bordas Grand-Dgr: Dolores & Steve Kosko

The Sunday of St. John Climacus

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

SUN., Mar 26 (28) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** Thanksgiving Kathe & Bill Kress
(25th wedding ann)



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

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Pius Church, Carrick

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 20 – Andrew Sclight; Mar 21 – Kenneth Krempasky; Mar 22 – Margaret Belunas, Nicholas Ripple; Mar 24 – A. Judy Hopey; Mar 25 – Wallace Michalism.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly 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 Belunas.

MANOR CARE (1848 Greentree Road., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): Charles "Pete" Latta.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it permissible for a Catholic to attend a gay bridal shower? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Although bridal showers are not weddings, they support those who are preparing for marriage or, in the case of a same-sex couple, for example, invalidly attempting to get married. You always want to do everything you can to make a difference in such a couple's lives, but part of that is loving them authentically. In this case, that would mean charitably explaining to them that you will always be their friend and do anything you can do to lovingly support them—and here that would mean not participating in their bridal shower, let alone their invalid attempt to marry.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 19 — March 25, 2017

(MR): **In memory of John Chambers**

offered by Wife: Julie & Daughters

(NS): **In memory of Nicole Elena Ringes**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Grnd-Mom: Anna M. Demanczyk (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



McKees Rocks Announcements

LENTEN PIROHI SALES CONTINUES FOR 3 ADDITIONAL WEEKS — the dates for the next sales are **March 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. Eat-ins will still be available. Please continue to get the word out to the public. We need pinchers! Please come to help us fulfill orders!

MEALS-ON-WHEELS SPAGHETTI FUND RAISER FORTHCOMING — The Allegheny West Meals-On-Wheels Kitchen will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner (includes salad roll w/butter, drink & dessert) at 900 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks, PA, on **Sunday, April 2, 2017** to solicit funds for their program to help others. Adults (\$10) Children under 12 (\$4). Take-outs available. M.O.W.'s serves Crafton Heights, Elliot, McKees Rocks, Robinson, Sheraden and Stowe Township. You are encouraged to support their cause.

Northside Announcements

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: HAM BINGO ON PALM SUNDAY — We are planning a HAM BINGO on **Palm Sunday, April 9**. Early Birds: 2:00 p.m.; Regulars games: 3:00 p.m. Gift Baskets, 50/50 Raffle and Baked goods will also be available. We are asking for volunteers to make baked good, and also spend some time in helping at the bingo. We are in need of funds to pay bills! Please help us advertise by taking a poster and have it placed so others can see it! We will, also, be applying for a Parish Expansion Grant from the G.C.U. Headquarters. If you can help with donations or prizes please call Lisa Plutto (412) 771-3915 or (412) 722-2746.



ATTEND THE PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY ON WEDNESDAYS (MR) @ 7:00 p.m. & FRIDAYS (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

Why do Catholics pray for the dead? — Part II

At most funerals, people say with some assurance, "he's in a better place now" or "she's in heaven," as if their loved one's immediate arrival in heaven were a foregone conclusion. In our grief we want to believe our loved ones go right to heaven but the truth is, we don't exactly know where they go. The Bible provides evidence that there can be no imperfections in heaven. (Too pure are your eyes to look upon evil, and the sight of misery you cannot endure. Heb. 1:13). According to the Catechism, most of us who don't merit hell yet still need purification before we can enter heaven, will pass through a state the Church calls purgatory when we die: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030) Purgatory fire may be metaphorical, since the souls in purgatory don't have bodies. **What causes them pain is their separation from God, even as they're also joyful that they will enter heaven.** The thought of a loved one suffering is motivation to pray. In charity, we're called to commend the souls of the faithful departed to God's mercy and pray for them. We can help them not only through our prayers but also by having Masses (Divine Liturgies) offered for them, by giving alms and by offering pious works for the spiritual benefit of others.



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!

EXPRESSING OUR PIETY & DEVOTION

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. The Cross is a sign of the Triune God's unconditional love for us. **We express our piety and devotion to the Precious Cross on the tetrapod by making two profound bows with sign of the Cross over ourselves saying each time silently "O God be merciful to me a sinner," kiss the Cross, and then making one more profound bow saying again, "O God be merciful to me a sinner."**



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.*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 19 Deanery Penitential Vespers: St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia @ 4:00 p.m.
 March 22 Week IV: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours.
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 March 24 Vigil of the Feast of the Annunciation w/ reading of the Hramoty (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
 Pirohi Sales.
 March 25 Feast of the Annunciation with the reading of the Hramoty (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
 March 26 Penitential Vespers: St. Pius X Church, Carrick @ 4:00 p.m.
 March 29 Week V: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours.
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 March 30 Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m.
 March 31 Week V: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
 Pirohi Sales.
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ reading of Hramoty.
 April 1 Akathistos Saturday imploring aid of the Theotokos in our ascetical practices (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 April 2 Final Deanery Penitential Vespers at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne, PA @ 4:00 pm.
 April 5 Week VI: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours.
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 7 The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast. & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.
 Lenten Daily Prayer (MR) @ 8:00 a.m. — Presanctified Divine Liturgy (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
 Final Day of Pirohi Sales.
 April 8 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 April 9 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier.
 ... Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions by extra Confessors.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (April 10 through April 15)

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 16 – 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.

Saint of the Week — March 21

St. James, Confessor of the Faith & Bishop of Cantania

Saint James, Bishop and Confessor, was inclined toward the ascetic life from his early years. Saint James left the world and entered the Studite monastery, where he was tonsured. He led a strict life, full of works, fasting and prayer. Pious and well-versed in Holy Scripture, Saint James was elevated to the bishop's throne of Catania (Sicily). During the reign of the iconoclast emperor Constantine V Copronymos (741-775), Saint James was repeatedly urged not to venerate the holy icons. They exhausted him in prison, starved him, and beat him, but he bravely endured all these torments. Saint James died in exile.



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLEMN HOLYDAY THIS WEEK —This **Saturday, March 25**, marks the *Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary*. The Byzantine Catholic Church teaches



this immovable feast to be so important that even if it falls on Holy and Great Friday a Eucharistic Divine Liturgy is to be celebrated. The didactic explanation is that if the Holy Virgin Mary did not consent to the Angelic Commander Gabriel's message to bring forth the Promised Messiah into the World, we would not have had Jesus' Incarnation and Nativity to come and suffer the Salutory Passion in order to die in our place upon the Holy Cross for our Redemption and to be raised from the dead. By her voluntary consent, we now have the promise of Eternal Life. This year this Feast falls on the Fourth All-Souls Saturday. The celebration of this Holy Day takes place instead of a Requiem Format, but there is still the offering for All Souls with the reading of the Hramoty during the Panachida near the end of the Divine Liturgy. Come join us as we celebrate this Feast and remember our loved ones who have the promise of salvation by the Holy Virgin's "YES" to God's Plan.

AN EVENING OF REPENTANCE RESCHEDULED DUE TO INCLIMATE WEATHER —The "*Evening of Repentance*," at St. John Cathedral, Munhall scheduled for last Tuesday was cancelled due to the snow storm. It has been **rescheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 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.



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: **(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.** It was good to see so many from our parishes attending these services. If you haven't done so, please join us. Fellowship of meatless soups and bread will be served following the liturgical services.



THE 4TH ALL SOULS COMMEMORATION DURING LENT — Many have not submitted or renewed the names of their loved ones for remembrances during our All Soul Saturdays. 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 two special All-Souls Saturdays. Please attend these special days! Check the liturgical page as to time and place.

THE GREAT FAST IS HALF OVER TODAY — The Season of the Holy and Great 40 days Fast has run half its course today — Cross-Veneration Sunday. The Holy Cross is placed in our midst to encourage and strengthen us to carry out the second half of our Lenten journey.

