

Parish Offerings – The Sunday of Zacchaeus

1st Pregreat Fast Sunday — Jan. 29, 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 (\$1,756) YP (\$4)	\$1,770.00
Holy Days (\$62) YP (\$2)	64.00
Initial (\$5) B.C.W. (\$14)	19.00
Votive Candles	85.90
	<hr/>
	\$1,938.90

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$527.00
Holy Days	35.00
Utilities (\$6) Improvements (\$3)	9.00
Votive Candles	41.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$612.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm. (40);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am. (66); (NS) 11:00 am. (41)

Three Holy Hierarchs, Jan 30 — (MR) Mon., 9:00 a.m. (13); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (5)

Feast of the Encounter, Feb. 2 — (MR) Thrs., 9:00 a.m. (21); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (26)

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Even the most prayerful person gets distracting while praying on occasion. Praying in front of a candle gives us tool to help us focus and avoid distraction. A similar principle applies to candles in church.

Why do Catholics light prayer candles?

When we light prayer candles in church, our intentions remain present even when we are gone. Next time you pass a candle rack, help prolong others' prayers by offering one for the intentions of the people who lit them.



Jesus is the Light of the World

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

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
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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 Marge (412) 331-3577

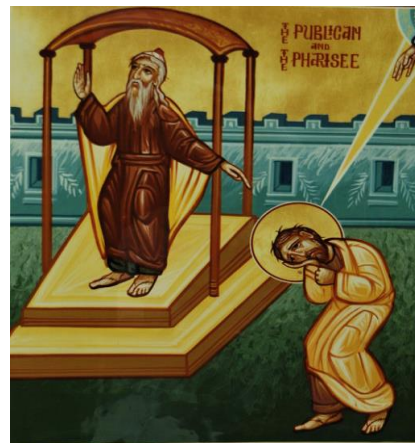
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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 5, 2017



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 Belinas (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

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).

Feb 5, 2017

Christian Greeting

Volume VII, Number 6



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
The Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee Postfestive of the Encounter Feast –The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday			
SUN., Feb 5	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	Health of John Kost (rescheduled from 1/28)	Sister: Mary Sahayda
Mon., Feb 6	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Donna Roznowski	Marianne & Ray Dziki
Tue, Feb 7	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Susan (Gramata) Cusatis	Parents: Eleanor & Basil Gramata
Wed., Feb 8	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ann Muska (4 th ann of passing)	Gladys Muska & Family
		Final Day of the Encounter Feast	
Thrs, Feb. 9	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Sr. Vladimir Chabala, OSBM	Basilian Sisters
NO SIMPLE ABSTINENCE OR EQUIVALENT PENANCE DURING PUBLICAN & PHARISEE WEEK. This is to remind us that we are NOT to take pride in the fact that this is all we do to seek God's favor, but to be humble. Traditionally, this is one of five and/or sometimes 6 times throughout the year that this occurs.			
Fri., Feb 10	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Kotik (7 th ann of passing)	Michael Finnerty
Sat., Feb 11	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ James Smith	Mother-in-law: Mary Sahayda

		Anticipated Sunday Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son	
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Claudia C. (Kapko) Verner	Husband: George
The Sunday of the Prodigal Son The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday			
SUN., Feb 12	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna + Michael Sejka	Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

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 7 – THERESA FECIK; Feb 8 – Peggy McCusker; Feb 9 – NICHOLAS SPONTAK; Feb 11 – Carlton Bates, EDWARD SPONTAK, III.

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, 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 Beliuinas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Can an atheist go to heaven? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** If someone does not come to believe in God because of stubbornness or refusal to give up selfish desires, then such a person would be culpable for his lack of belief. If, however, because of circumstances a sincere person is prevented from coming to belief in God, then his lack of faith is called invincible ignorance, and such a person would not be considered culpable. As Pope Pius XI noted in Quanto Conficiamur Moerore: *It is known to us and to you that those who are in invincible ignorance of our most holy religion, but who observe carefully the natural law, and the precepts graven by God upon the hearts of all men, and who being disposed to obey God lead an honest and upright life, may, aided by the light of divine grace, attain to eternal life; for God who sees clearly, searches and knows the heart, the disposition, the thoughts and intentions of each, in his supreme mercy and goodness by no means permits that anyone suffer eternal punishment, who has not of his own free will fallen into sin.*

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 5 — February 11, 2017

(MR): **In memory of Margaret "Peggy" Krulac**

offered by Margaret Cifurulak

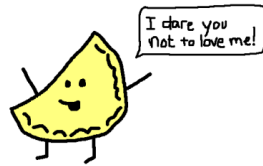
(NS): **In memory of James Smith**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Mother-in-law : Mary Sahayda (NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017



McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The Lenten Season will soon be here. Once again, we will discuss whether we will have a Pirohi Project. Perhaps a big change is to take a limited amount of orders only?! We will meet in the Church Basement for a short but important meeting following the Sunday Divine Liturgy today. This meeting will determine whether or not the Project will be possible. **Thanks to all who came to clean the kitchen and the gym facilities this past Tuesday! You did a great job!**



MONTHLY COFFEE SOCIAL & BYZAN-TEEN BAKE SALE THIS WEEKEND — Our monthly Coffee Social will take place following this weekend's Divine Liturgies. Our Byzan-Teen Youth Group will also have their monthly Bake Sale following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. This helps them to raise funds for the next Byzan-Teen Youth Rally. Let us support our TEENS!!

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The 1st Quarter Annual PAC Meeting will be held on this Monday, **February 6, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.** All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance.

Northside Announcements

BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND SPIRIT — **Theodore Harvey Helms** was Reborn of Water and Spirit and became a full member of the Church through the *Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Baptism, Chrismation and First Eucharist* last week on the *Sunday of Zacchaeus*, **January 29, 2017**. His parents are John Helms & Aimee (Lasko) Helms of North Hills. Sponsor was parishioner, Leah Marie (Lasko) Trapl and Christian Witness was Jesse Helms, the brother of the father. The Patron Saint assigned to Theodore is the Byzantine Catholic Hierarch, Blessed Bishop-Martyr Theodore G. Romzha (commemorated on



November 1). May God grant to Theodore Harvey, Peace, Health & Salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The 1st Quarter Annual PAC Meeting will be held on this **Tuesday, February 7, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.** All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance in the Social Hall.

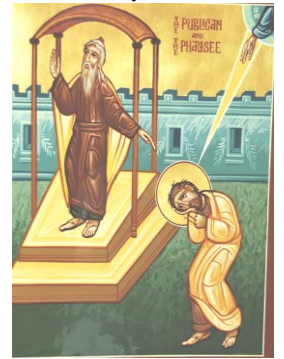
Join Us for the Daily Divine Liturgy!
It's the best future investment for the other side!

TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — HUMILITY before God & Neighbor (Luke 18: 10-14)

Jesus was constantly combating the self-righteousness that he found such a sinister enemy of spiritual progress. This parable is addressed directly to the self-righteous. The Pharisee and the tax collector are stereotypes of the good and the sinful person. The Pharisee prays with straightforward gratitude for his healthy spiritual state. There is no sign that he is trying to deceive. Pharisees did fast severely twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, for the good of the whole nation. And there is no reason to doubt that he tithed. *The tragedy is that he does not understand the flawed nature of this prayer.* He is deceiving himself. He does not look upon himself as God's servant but as one who deserves good of God for a job well done. Besides this pride, he is guilty of contempt for the tax collector.



The tax collector is conscious of his sinfulness. He knows that he does not deserve consideration because of anything he has done. The prayer he utters is one of the sources of the ancient Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." It is this helplessness and dependence that opens one to God's grace; it is the spirit of the child. Earlier Jesus commended one who would say, after doing good work that was a duty, "We are unprofitable servants" (17:10). The debate over faith and works is already engaged here (see Rom 3:27-4:5). Jesus Himself draws the shocking conclusion from the parable: the observant Pharisee goes home unjustified; the sinful tax collector is justified. The reversal maxim concludes the story.

SIMPLE ABSTINENCE IS MITIGATED THIS WEEK

The Church looks upon every Friday as a special day of remembrance of Our Lord's salvific death upon the Precious Cross. Fasting/Abstinence are a reminder that we must be humbly grateful to Jesus for dying for our sins. However, there are certain Fridays throughout the liturgical life that we put aside this penitential character for other didactical expressions. For example, this **Friday following the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee, simple abstinence is mitigated so that we focus on the fact that abstinence is not an end in itself.** Christ is our end and He is the only One Who can save us. We cannot save ourselves even if we were to fast everyday! For we who are used to abstaining from meat or doing an equivalent penance each Friday, this is difficult, but necessary to keep us humble and to focus on the value of what fasting and abstinence truly accomplish. It then aids in strengthening us at the appropriate times when we are called to its practice.



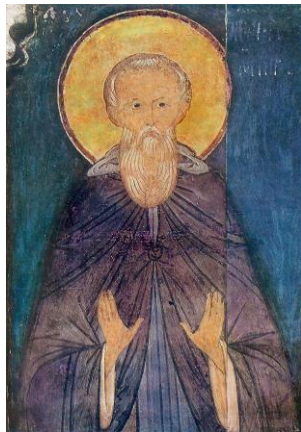
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4-5 Monthly Coffee Social following the weekend Divine Liturgy.
 February 5 Byzan-TEEN Youth Bake Sale following Sunday's Divine Liturgy.
 February 6 MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
 February 7 NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
 February 12 1st quarterly meeting of GCU Lodge 390 @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 17 (NS) 1st All Souls Saturday Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.
 February 18 (MR) 1st All Souls Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
 February 26 (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 27 **PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.**
 (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week

Our Father among the Saints, Parthenius Bishop of Lampsacus — February 7

Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, was a native of the city of Melitoupolis (in northwestern Asia Minor, modern day Turkey), where his father Christopher served as deacon. The youth did not receive adequate schooling, but he learned the Holy Scripture by attending church services. He had a good heart, and distributed to the poor the money he earned working as a fisherman. Filled with the grace of God, Saint Parthenius from age eighteen healed the sick in the name of Christ, cast out demons and worked other miracles. Learning of the young man's virtuous life, Bishop Philetus of Melitoupolis educated him and ordained him presbyter. In 325, during the reign of Constantine the Great, Archbishop Achilles of Cyzicus made him bishop of the city of Lampsacus (Asia Minor). In the city were many pagans, and the saint fervently began to spread the faith in Christ, confirming it through many miracles and by healing the sick. The people began to turn from their pagan beliefs, and the saint went to the emperor Constantine the Great seeking



permission to tear down the pagan temple and build a Christian church in its place. The emperor received the saint with honor, gave him a decree authorizing the destruction of the pagan temple, and provided him with the means to build a church. Saint Parthenius built a beautiful church of God in the city. In one of the razed temples, he found a large marble slab which he thought would be very suitable as an altar. The saint ordered work to begin on the stone, and to move it to the church. Through the malice of the devil, who became enraged at the removal of the stone from the pagan temple, the cart overturned and killed the driver Eutythian. Saint Parthenius restored him to life by his prayer and shamed the devil, who wanted to frustrate the work of God. The saint was so kind that he refused healing to no one who came to him, or who chanced to meet him by the wayside, whether he suffered from bodily illnesses or was tormented by unclean spirits. People even stopped going to physicians, since Saint Parthenius healed all the sick for free. With the great power of the name of Christ, the saint banished a host of demons from people, from their homes, and from the waters of the sea. Having shown people the great power of faith in Christ, the saint converted a multitude of idol-worshippers to the true God. Saint Parthenius died peacefully and was solemnly buried beside the cathedral church of Lampsacus, which he built.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES AVAILABLE — It is an ancient tradition of our Byzantine Catholic Church to have candles sanctified on February 2, the *Feast of the Encounter of the Lord with Simeon*. 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.



G.C.U. LODGE 390 MEETING NEXT WEEK — Just a reminder that the 1st quarterly Lodge 390 Meeting will take place next **Sunday afternoon, February 12, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.** in the MR Church Basement. All members who have a GCU Policy are members and are encouraged to attend. If you would like to join the GCU, please attend. All that it takes is purchasing a life insurance policy or a Traditional or Roth IRA at really great rates.



REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED DEPARTED — On Saturday, **February 18** we are marking the first of five All Souls Saturdays. It is a time to remember our loved ones by name as the priest prays for the repose of their souls. If you would like to renew the intention for your beloved, there is a special envelope in your contribution box, list only the first names of your departed family members. Also, make an extra effort to be present during the Divine Liturgy on these special days and receive Holy Communion worthily with the intention for the repose of their souls.



INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE— If MR Members would like a record of their 2016 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 2016 envelopes. Your number may have changed!

CONSIDERING MARRIAGE THIS YEAR? ATTEND PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS —

The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Canan Program for the Archeparchy once each year. This year's two-part Pre-Canan Program is **March 11 and 25** at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Couples planning to marry this year **ARE REQUIRED to attend** both parts of two all-day Saturday sessions. The program addresses topics pertinent to couples' future lifestyle and concludes on the second Saturday with Presentation of Certificates. Sessions will discuss the following topics: communication, sexuality and relationships, Byzantine spirituality and prayer, natural family planning, finances and budgeting, experiences of marriage and theology of marriage/Crowning Ceremony. **Contact Church Office for more information.**

