

Parish Offerings – The 36th Sunday after Pentecost Jan. 22, 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 (\$1,965) YP (\$14)	\$1,979.00
Holy Days	49.00
Initial (\$25) YP (\$3) B.C.W. (\$66)	94.00
Votive Candles	107.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,229.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$865.00
Initial	5.00
Utilities	75.00
Votive Candles	43.50
	<hr/>
	\$988.50

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm. (34);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am. (102); (NS) 11:00 am. (41)



“We’re always getting him out of a tree.
We should’ve called him Zacchaeus.”

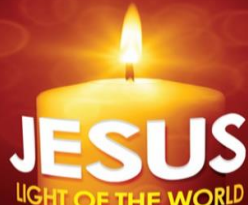


Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412)
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



PETTIT & SPONTAK, LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

www.pettitspontak.com

US Steel Tower,
Pittsburgh

ecs@pettitspontak.com
412.246.0111

DESIGNS BY NANCY

235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nancde@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski

Sewing, Alterations, Custom
Embroidery and Unique Gifts



Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

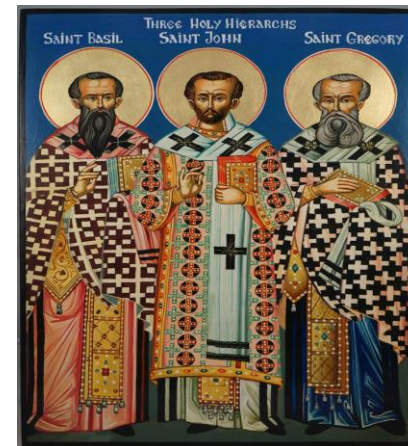
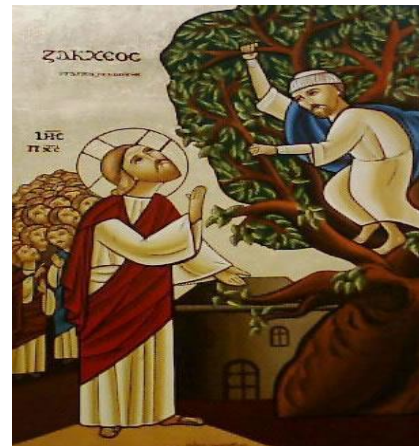
Lodge 390 offers Insurance and
Annuity Benefits greater than
most financial institutions. Info
call Marge (412) 331-3577



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

The SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

1st Pregreat Fast Sunday — January 29, 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: (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).

Jan 29, 2017

Christian Greeting

Volume VII, Number 5



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 Zacchaeus

The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN., JAN 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Stanley Lubinski Nephew: Robert & Joyce Spontak

Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs

Simple Holy Day

Mon., Jan 30 9:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention for the Intention of the Givers
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Tue, Jan 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Patricia Ratterree + Mark Wextel Bilak & Tomchak
+ Jeffrey Noll Families

Prefestive of the Encounter Feast

Wed., Feb 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret "Peggy" Krulac Holy Ghost Pirohi Workers



ENCOUNTER OF THE LORD



Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to Divine Liturgy — Mirovanje

Thrs, Feb. 2 *8:50 a.m. (MR) + Myron F. "Rusty" Kundrat Rebecca Wallace
(6th ann of passing 2/1)

*5:50 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance for the ill and suffering members of our parishes.

Fri., Feb 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John A. Jumba Sal Williams & Family
(2nd ann of passing 1/19)

Sat., Feb 4 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna (Lemak) Warhola Cousin: Emma Lazorchik

Anticipated Sunday Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Joseph F. Pospychala Theresa Kundrat

The Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

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 Sister: Mary Sahayda
(rescheduled from 1/28)

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: Jan 29 – Richard Cifruk; Jan 31 – Burt Cifruk, Krassi Kassabov, GARY MULLEN, DAMIAN TRAPL; Feb 1 – Karen Grzywinski; Feb 2 – Peggi Lucas, Rosemarie Nazak, William Zavidny; Feb 4 – Madelyn Nazak, Kerri Poloka.

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, 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. My brother died three months ago when he slipped and fell into a canal. He didn't receive last rites; could he still get to heaven? I'm worried sick about this. **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Yes. Many people have died without receiving the last rites (e.g. those who die in wars, car accidents, etc.). God is not bound by his sacraments (CCC 1257). And, "since Christ died for all, and since all men are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partakers, in a way known to God, of the Paschal mystery" (CCC 1260). Thus, you need not despair of the salvation of your brother. Pope John Paul II in *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia* (Reconciliation and Penance) offers us these words of comfort: "Moreover, God in his merciful love is greater than our hearts, as St. John further teaches us, and can overcome all our psychological and spiritual resistance. So that, as St. Thomas writes, 'considering the omnipotence and mercy of God, no one should despair of the salvation of anyone in this life'" (17). Continue to pray for the repose of his soul.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 29 — February 4, 2017

(MR): In memory of Peg Krulac & Elsie Eberle

offered by Bunny Zavidny

(NS): In memory of Gerta & John Batko

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

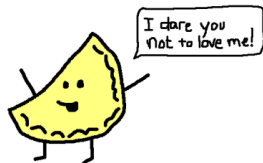
offered by Nephew: Fr. Firko

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017

McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of parishioner, **Debra Ann Palahunik, 61**, of Stowe Township on Monday, January 23, 2017 at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh. She was the daughter of Irene & Michael Palahunik. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Musmanno Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered at the Parish on Sat, Jan 28. Interment was at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. Our parish offers its most sincere condolences and prayerful support to the Palahunik Family. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, Debra Ann, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'

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 Divine Liturgy on **next Sunday, February 5, 2017**. We are going to need **SOMEONE IN CHARGE** for organizing, and to make sure that supplies are bought and stocked, etc! Also, we are going to need a commitment from everyone to be faithful to this project. **To prepare, there will a kitchen cleaning this Tuesday, Jan. 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon!**



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



G.C.U. LODGE MEETING NEXT WEEKEND — The 1st Quarter Greek Catholic Union Lodge Meeting has been changed to next **Sunday, February 12, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are encouraged to attend!

MONTHLY COFFEE SOCIAL & BYZAN-TEEN BAKE SALE NEXT WEEKEND — Our monthly Coffee Social will take place next weekend following the weekend 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!!

Northside Announcements

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The 1st Quarter Annual PAC Meeting will be held on **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 In Preparation of 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.



The 3 Holy Hierarchs — January 30



In the month of January, each of these saints has their own feast day. **St. Basil the Great, January 1; St. Gregory the Theologian, January 25; and St. John Chrysostom, January 27.** This combined feast day, January 30, was instituted in the eleventh century during the reign of Emperor Alexius Comnenus. At one time a debate arose among the people concerning who of the three is the greatest? Some extolled Basil because of his purity and courage; others extolled Gregory for his unequalled depth and lofty mind in theology; still others extolled Chrysostom because of his eloquence and clarity in expounding the Faith. Thus some were called Basilians, others Gregorgians, and the third were called Johannites. This debate was settled by Divine Providence to the benefit of the Church and to an even greater glory of the three saints. Bishop John of Euchaita (June 14) had a vision in a dream: At first, all three of these saints appeared to him separately in great glory and indescribable beauty, and after that all three appeared together. They said to him, "As you see, we are one in God and there is nothing contradictory in us; neither is there a first or a second among us." The saints also advised Bishop John that he write a common service for them and to order a common feast day of celebration. Following this wonderful vision, the debate was settled in this manner: **January 30** would be designated as the common feast of these three hierarchs. The Greeks consider this feast not only an ecclesiastical feast but their greatest national school holiday.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 30 Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs – Simple Holy Day – (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS); 6:00 p.m.
 February 2 Feast of the Encounter w/ Sanctification of Candles – (MR) 8:50 a.m. (NS) & 5:50 p.m.
 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.

SOLEMN HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

The Encounter of the Lord – February 2

The **fortieth day** after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself. "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the



Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2 & Leviticus 12:2-7). Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver did not, in anyway, want to transgress His own Law whom He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zachariah, the father of John the Forerunner, was on duty in the Temple ["serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" St. Luke 1:8]. Zachariah placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion, two unusual persons appeared in the Temple: the Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: "Now, Master,

You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation" (St. Luke 2: 29-30). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" (St. Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayer recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One. The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zachariah because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this is the new king about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Encounter of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times but the solemn celebration of this day was established in the year 544 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

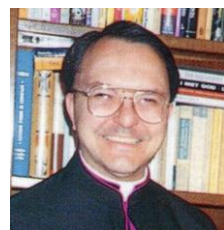
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLEMN BLESSING OF CANDLES THIS WEEK — On Thursday, **Feb. 2**, we commemorate the Solemn Feast of THE ENCOUNTER OF THE LORD. The Righteous Simeon was promised by God that he would not pass onto eternity until he had first seen the Messiah in the flesh. It is a day that Byzantine Catholics acknowledge Jesus coming to ENCOUNTER His people. Christ is the revelation light to the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel. Jesus comes as the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. It is on this day that candles are solemnly blessed. Although the Church will provide candles, you may also wish to bring your own for the solemn blessing.



PASTOR CONTINUES HOUSE BLESSINGS THIS WEEK — It is so important to have your house blessed EVERY year. To have God's blessing renewed annually keeps it away from evil influence, cleanses it from the sin committed in it, and imparts God's protection upon it. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office or email Fr. Firko directly (ffaf334@verizon.net) and set up an appointment. Only a few more weeks remaining.

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!



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC PRIEST PASSES AWAY — The Eparchy of Passaic, NJ, announced the passing of one of their active priest last week. **Monsignor John Sekellick, 73**, pastor of Holy Ghost Church, Jessup, PA and St. John the Baptist Church, Forest City, PA, unexpectedly passed away on Friday, January 20, 2017 in Scranton following a brief illness. He also served in the Eparchy's Tribunal Office. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Minersville, PA on Wednesday, Jan 25. Internment followed in the parish cemetery. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, to Your servant, the priest, Monsignor Sekellick, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat! Please remember him in your prayers!

PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS — The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Cana Program for the Archeparchy once each year. This year's two-part Pre-Cana 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 **must 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.**

