

Parish Offerings – The Sunday of Publican & Pharisee

2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — Feb. 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 (\$3,026.50) YP (\$9)	\$3,035.50
Holy Days	148.00
Initial (\$10) B.C.W. (\$42) Coffee Social (\$48)	100.00
Votive Candles	267.66
	<hr/> \$3,551.16

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$480.55
Holy Days	40.00
Utilities (\$55) Improvements (\$50)	105.00
Votive Candles	123.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$749.05

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm. (48);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am. (85); (NS) 11:00 am. (26)



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McKees Rocks, PA 15136
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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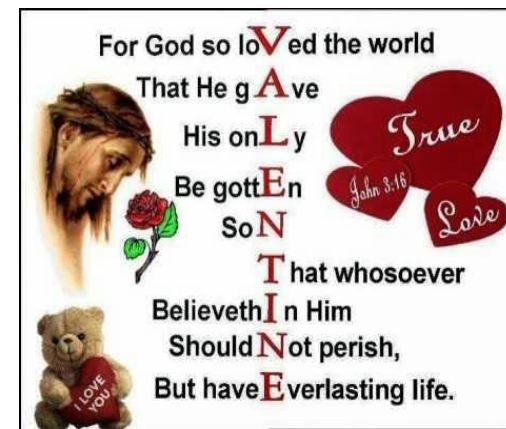
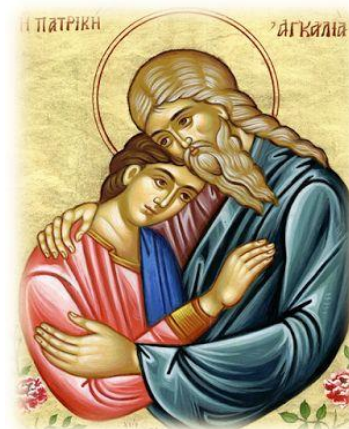
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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 12, 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 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

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 12, 2017

Christian Greeting


Volume VII, Number 7



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 Prodigal Son			
The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday			
SUN., Feb 12	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna + Michael Sejka	Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	
Mon., Feb 13	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Fedorowich	Dgtr: + Joyce Ray
		<i>(10th ann of passing)</i>	
<i>Passing of St. Cyril, Co-Equal to the Apostles & Teacher of the Slavs</i>			
Tue, Feb 14	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George Kurtanich	Bernadette Gunkel
Wed., Feb 15	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Francis Eberle <i>(birthday)</i>	Irene Muha
Thrs, Feb. 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Formoso	Husband: Vincent
		<i>(6th ann of passing 2/17)</i>	
 REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) <i>for reparation for the sins of abortion & the destructive sin of racism in our country</i>			
Fri., Feb 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Florence "Flo" Szal	Michael Maslaney
		<i>(2nd ann of passing)</i>	

6:00 p.m. (NS) **First Universal All-Souls w/reading of Hramoty**

First Universal All Souls Saturday

Sat., Feb 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) **First Universal All-Souls w/reading of Hramoty**

Anticipated Sunday Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Meat-Fare

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Julianna + John Bordas Dgtr: Dolores & Steve Kosko

The Sunday of Meat-Fare

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — The Terrible Judgment

SUN., Feb 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop Valeriano & Kallop Families

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 13 — Charles Sell; Feb 15 — Kurt Marks; Feb 16 — James Schelling; Feb 17 — Joshua Alman, Theodore Babin, Julie Kutchmark.

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, 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. My teenage son does not want to receive Communion. Should I require him to receive? Is it a sin to require a 15-year-old to go to Communion? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** While your underage son is in your home, you can certainly require him to go to Mass (Divine Liturgy) with you, but you cannot require him to receive Holy Communion. Unless he expresses a desire and is properly disposed to receive (if a person is conscious of a grave sin, confession is required before going to Communion), he should refrain from receiving the Eucharist. St. Paul warns about receiving Communion in an unworthy manner: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." (1 Cor 11:27-29)

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 12 — February 18, 2017

(MR): **Thanksgiving (61st Wed. Ann) of Norma & Peter Kacsur**

offered by Herron & Kacsur Families

(NS): **In memory of August Manfredo**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Wife: Olga & Family

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017

McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* was recently made aware of the passing of



Marsha Kurtanich, 53, at her Sharpsville, PA home on Saturday, February 4, 2017. She was the cousin of parishioners, Elaine Kurtanich, Karen (Gerald) Stebbins and James (Anne) Kurtanich. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Hermitage, PA on Thursday, Feb 9th. Interment followed at the Parish Cemetery; **Judith Bush, 84**, of Columbus, OH who passed away on Monday, January 23, 2017 following a lengthy illness. She was the mother of parishioner, Erin (Carl) Bates, and grandmother of parishioners, Helena & C.J. Bates. Our Holy Ghost Parish extends its most sincere condolences and prayerful support to the families. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servants, Marsha & Judith, and remember them forever! Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'.

LENTEN PIROHI SALES WILL BE STARTING — We will commence our seven week Pirohi Project this Friday for The Great Fast Season. The dates for sales are **February 24, March 3, 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 3:00 p.m.** We will only be making a limited amount under this new format. Eat-ins will still be available. Please leave your name, phone number and order on the voice mail if there is no answer. We are going to need everyone's assistance in getting the word out to the public. Please take a few posters and place them where others will notice them. The posters are located at the entrances of the Church.



SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC MEETING — At the Monday, **February 6, 2017** PAC Meeting, the following agenda was discussed: (1) Review of the 2016 General Financial Statement; (2) Spring cleaning of the grounds on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 a.m. to noon; (4) Corporate Communion and Renewal of Baptismal Vows of 2 boys on Saturday, May 6, at the 4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy; (5) Annual Dual Parish Picnic on Clever Road, Robinson Township reserved for Sunday, August 20, 2017 and Dual Parish Cookout on Tuesday, July 4, 2017 following the morning Divine Liturgy; and (6) our Patronal Feast Day & Graduate Dinner marking our 110th founding of the Parish on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017.



Northside Announcements

SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC MEETING — At the Tuesday, **February 7, 2017** PAC Meeting, the following agenda was discussed: (1) Review of the 2016 General Financial Statement; (2) Review of The Great Fast, Holy Week & Easter Liturgical Schedule which will be the same as last year's (4) At MR the Pentecost & Graduate Celebration on Sunday, June 4. Also, we will celebrate our Patronal Feast Day Dinner marking the 115th founding of the Parish. (5) Annual Parish Picnic on Clever Road, Robinson Township reserved for Sunday, August 20, 2017 and Parish Cookout on Tuesday, July 4, 2017 following the morning Divine Liturgy; (6) this year's Ham Bingo on Palm Sunday, April 13 is still being considered due to a lack of workers..



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 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — THE RETURN BACK to the Father (Lk 15: 11-32)

Who does not know this parable from the Gospels? Even non-Christians use the expression "like the prodigal son." But how often do we really understand it? By our sins, but



even more by our forgetfulness, we distance ourselves from God and His Kingdom, we go off alone to "a far country." We waste the talents which God has given us. And we become spiritually impoverished; we begin to be in want. This is unavoidable; we were created for God's Kingdom, so we are not capable of being truly happy and satisfied anywhere else. But we are afraid to turn to God, so we seek happiness and satisfaction from transitory things which can never satisfy us. Returning back to the Father in repentance will assure us of salvation. We must remember the heavenly city

which is the goal of our pilgrimage. We must realize that in this world we are all exiles, we are all "displaced" from our true Home in the Heavenly Kingdom. That gift of memory, of understanding of our situation, enables us to resolve, like the Prodigal Son: "I will get up and go back to my Father!" With this realization, we resolve to make the effort during The Great Fast, to travel this spiritual road back to the Heavenly Kingdom. It is not easy; it will take time and energy, and sometimes we shall be tired and weary. But we will not be alone; Jesus is with us, and so are all the Saints, and the Father is awaiting us with a loving, joyful welcome.

Remembering all the Departed on 5 Universal All-Souls Saturdays

The Byzantine Catholic Church has, since the ninth century, established a special day of prayer for the departed known as All Souls Saturday. There is a "universal commemoration" and prayer for "all the souls departed in the faith," fittingly then, in English, we call these Saturdays – All Souls Saturdays. **In the Byzantine Liturgical Year there are five All Souls Saturdays namely, Meat Fare Saturday, the Second, Third and Fourth Saturdays of The Great Fast, and the Saturday before Pentecost.** The first commemoration prior to the Lenten Season begins with Meat-Fare Saturday as a special day of prayer for the deceased. It can be traced down to the sixth and seventh century. On Meat-Fare Sunday we liturgically commemorate the Terrible Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46). Therefore, on the previous day, we, in our charity, intercede with the merciful Judge for the deceased. In the Byzantine Church, official lists of the deceased members of individual families are submitted to the pastor. These were called Hramoty, from meaning a written letter or document. The list of the deceased members of a family made in booklet form was used at the services for the deceased. The custom of announcing the names of the deceased during the liturgical services, as stated above, can be traced back to the first centuries of Christianity. Already in the fourth century, the practice was strongly defended by St. Epiphanius (+403) as a "firmly established tradition" in the Church. He writes: Concerning the ritual of reading the names of the deceased, what can be more useful or suitable; what can be more worthy of admiration? (Panarios 75, 8).



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12	..... 1 st quarterly meeting of GCU Lodge 390 @ 2:00 p.m.
February 17	..... (NS) 1 st All Souls Saturday Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.
February 18	..... (MR) 1 st All Souls Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
February 24	..... Byzan-TEEN Youth Group Dinner & Ice Skating Gathering following the 4pm DL.
February 26	..... Pirohi Project Commences.
February 27	..... (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.
March 1	..... (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.
March 3	..... PURE WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
March 5	..... PURE FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
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.
March 11	..... 2 nd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

Saint of the Week

Our Venerable Father Martinian of Caesarea February 13

Saint Martinian went to live in the wilderness at the age of eighteen, not far from the city of Caesarea in Palestine. For twenty-five years, he devoted himself to ascetic deeds and silence, and he was granted the gift of healing illnesses and casting out demons. However, the Enemy of the race of man would not stop bothering the hermit with various temptations.



Once a profligate woman made a wager with some dissolute people that she could seduce Saint Martinian, the fame of whose virtuous life had spread throughout the city. She came to him one night pretending that she had lost her way in the storm, and asking for shelter. The saint let her enter, unable to turn her away in such a storm. He went into his room and locked the door. The wicked guest changed into beautiful clothes and began to tempt the ascetic. When morning came, Saint Martinian came out to send the woman away. Though he was tempted by the woman's beauty, he was determined not to fall into sin. Lighting a fire, he stepped into it, saying, "You want me to burn with temptation, and want to lead me into the fires of Hell. I will not let you. Instead, I will burn for my virginity and save my soul." The woman came to see how evil she was. She repented and asked the saint to guide her onto the way of salvation. He told her to go to Bethlehem, to Saint Paula (January 26). There she lived as a nun for twelve years in strict asceticism until her blessed end. The woman's name was Zoe. Saint Martinian went to an uninhabited rocky island, and lived on it under the open sky for several years, nourished by the provisions brought by a certain sailor from time to time. In return the monk wove baskets for him. Once a powerful storm wrecked a ship, and a woman named Photina floated on pieces of the wreckage to the island of Saint Martinian. Saint Martinian helped her to survive the island. "Remain here," he told her, "for here is bread and water, and in two months a boat will come." Then he jumped into the sea and swam off. Two dolphins carried him to dry land. Thereafter, Saint Martinian led the life of a wanderer. Later, he came to Athens and fell ill. Sensing the approach of death, he went into church and lay upon the floor. God revealed to the Bishop of Athens who Saint Martinian was, and the bishop buried his body with honor. This occurred around the year 422.

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

G.C.U. LODGE 390 MEETING TODAY — Just a reminder that the 1st quarterly Lodge 390 Meeting will take place next **Sunday afternoon, February 12, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.** Originally, it was to take place in the MR Church Basement, but due to the rental of the facility, **the meeting will take place in the school classroom.** 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.



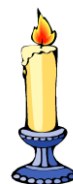
REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED DEPARTED — On Saturday, **February 18** we are marking the first of five All Souls Saturdays. It is a time to remember our loved ones by name as the priest prays for the repose of their souls. If you would like to renew the intention for your beloved, there is a special envelope 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 REMAIN 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!



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: (1) **March 5 — St. John Chrysostom Church, Pittsburgh – Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskevich;** (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: To be determined;** 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 DISPLAY OF SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES — This will be the final weekend that Solemnly Blessed Candles will be on display for purchase. You may ask the Pastor at any time should you like to purchase the special decorated ones. 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.