

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Cheese-Fare – Feb. 11, 2018**

“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 (\$2,226.50) YP (\$26.56) .....	\$2,253.06
Holy Days .....	172.00
B.C.W. (\$29) Eastern Europe (\$50) .....	79.00
Votive Candles .....	223.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,727.56

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$553.00
Holy Days .....	25.00
Utilities (\$9) Improvement (\$5) Initial (\$5) B.C.W. (\$14) .....	33.00
Votive Candles .....	51.00

**Church Attendance Last Week \$662.00**

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (53);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (87); (NS) 11:00 am (27)

Forgiveness Vespers – (MR) 2:00 pm (21)

Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (5); (NS) 6:00 pm (7)

Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (32); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)



THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT



**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*

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**GCU**  
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
 A Fraternal Benefit Society  
 Lodge 390 offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Tina (412) 859-9597

**This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office (412) 771-3324**

**Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!**

**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

**The Triumph of True Worship — February 18, 2018**



**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.
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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 Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 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

The grace of truth has shown forth; \* that which was formerly prefigured obscurely is now openly fulfilled. Behold, the Church is clothed as with a heavenly garment by the icon of the Body of Christ, which was prefigured by the Ark of the Covenant. She preserves the True Faith so that we might keep without blemish the image of the One Whom we worship. May those who do not believe this be covered with shame! For we glory in the image of the incarnate Word, whom we venerate but do not worship as an idol. O faithful, let us hold it in reverence and sing: Save Your people, O God, and bless Your inheritance. (Great Vespers of the Sunday of True Worship).

Feb 18, 2018

Christian Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 7



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP</b>			
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy</b>			
SUN., Feb 18 (7)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Geraldine Nazak	Husband: Andy & Family
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ August J. Manfredo ( <i>birthday</i> )	Wife: Olga & Family
	4:00 p.m.	Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks	
<i>Washington's Birthday Observed (cf. article) – Federal Holiday – No Banking or Mail</i>			
Mon, Feb 19 (8)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Formoso ( <i>7<sup>th</sup> ann of passng 2/17</i> )	Husband: Vincent
Tue, Feb 20 (9)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	
		<b>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)</b>	
Wed. Feb 21 (10)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours	
	6:30 a.m. (MR)	Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary	
	7:00 p.m. (MR)	Presanctified Divine Liturgy	
Thrs, Feb 22 (11)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Eisenman	Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz
		<b>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)</b>	
Fri. Feb 23 (12)	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	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist</b>			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY</b>			
Sat, Feb, 24 (13)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty	
*****			
		<i>Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Palsied Man — Second Sunday of The Great Fast</i>	
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Alex Bilak, Jr. ( <i>birthday 2/20</i> )	Rose Nazak
<b>THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN</b>			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy</b>			
SUN., Feb 25 (14)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margaret Kurtanich ( <i>birthday 2/21</i> )	Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Esther M. Kallop ( <i>4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/19</i> ) Valeriano & Kallop Families	
	4:00 p.m.	Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Elias Church, Munhall	
preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..			



# 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*

Feb 20 – Monica Lee Lemesh, Margaret Dubensky, John Marks; Feb 21 – Lester Best, Michael Muska; Feb 23 – Harper & Sawyer Kovacs.

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuнас, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, Theresa Kundrat, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, Alice Sejka, Millie Sotak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, Julia Wovchko, SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

**MAPLEWOOD PC HOME** (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.

**HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER** (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.

**BRIGHTON REHAB & WELLNESS CENTER** (246 Friendship Circle, Beaver, PA 15009): Mary Susan Dragos.

**MASONIC VILLAGE** (1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Preganz.

**MARIAN MANOR** (2695 Winchester Dr., Pgh, 15220): Irene Bednar, MICHAEL BARBUSH

**CHIPPEWA PLACE** (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.

**FAIR OAKS ASSISTED LIVING** (2200 W. Liberty Ave., Pgh, 15226): ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK.

**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): William Zavidny.

**CRANBERRY PLACE** (5 St. Francis Way, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066): MARY SAHAYDA

**VETERANS HOSPITAL** (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

**ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL** (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): MARLENE PFEIFFER.

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

**Q.** What does Jesus mean when he says we must eat and drink his body and blood to be raised on the last day? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** What Our Lord means is that, in order to reach eternal life, each person must be linked to his death and resurrection through an active faith and love. We would say in traditional language that the fruits of his Passion must be applied to souls individually. The means Our Lord established in order to apply these fruits to individual souls are the sacraments, which are saving signs that link us to Christ's death, and the present grace he gives, and the reward of eternal life. The greatest and most powerful of the sacraments is the Eucharist. This sacrament is thus the paradigm of salvation here below, and so Our Lord relates eternal salvation in the resurrection to our eating and drinking his body and blood by our faith and love for him in this holy sacrament of sacraments.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**February 18 — February 24, 2018**

(MR): **In memory of Irene & Alex Bilak, Jr.**

offered by Grandson: Mike Tomchak

(NS): **In memory of Esther M. Kallop (birthday 2/19)**

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018



## McKees Rocks Announcements

**PARISH IS HOSTING DEANERY GREAT FAST VESPERS THIS AFTERNOON** — The first of 5 Deanery Lenten Vespers will be offered today at 4:00 p.m. We cordially welcome all the clergy and faithful of the Greater Pittsburgh Deanery. You are encouraged to attend and represent Holy Ghost Church. Bring a friend along to experience and pray this penitential liturgical service. Complimentary meatless Lenten Soups will be served. Use this time to fulfill your Easter Precept commonly referred to as the EASTER DUTY. Traditionally this precept of the Church extends from the First Sunday of The Great Fast (Feb. 18) until the Sunday of All Saints (May 27).

**PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUE THIS WEEK** — The remaining Pirohi Sales are: Feb. 23, Mar. 2, 9, 16 & 23. Orders are taken the Wednesday prior to the sales from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. We still are in need additional volunteers to be on the front line pinching. **Please take Posters (located in the Church Narthex and Side Vestibule) to publicize this event!**



## Northside Announcements

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of **Infant Vivianne Grace Trapl**, the daughter of Leah (Lasko) and Damian Trapl, and sister of Eliana on Monday, February 12, 2018. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home on California Avenue. A Funeral Commendation Service for an Infant was offered at the Funeral Home on Thursday Feb. 15 at 10:00 a.m. followed by the interment at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery. Our parish family extends it's most heart-felt condolences to Leah, Damian & Eliana and the entire Trapl and Lasko Families. O blessed and ever-to-be-remembered child Vivianne Grace, you are remembered forever!



**FUTURE OF SOCIAL TO BE DETERMINED TODAY** — Following this AM's Divine Liturgy, there will be a meeting with all NS parishioners at the Social Center. The building is draining us of our funds with virtually no activity currently happening. Also, it will take many thousands of dollars to restore its internal contents. A representative from Berkshire Hathaway Home Services will be there to inform us what the real estate price would be to sell. Please attend this important meeting!

**THOMAS SUNDAY 50/50 RAFFLE** — Since we do not have the Ham & Turkey Bingos any longer, we will take up a few 50/50 raffles to bring in a little more income. We will also work with GCU Lodge 390 to have funds matched! Please support this project!

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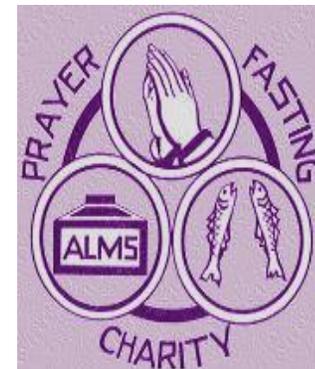
**DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY** — *The Great Fast Deanery Vespers* will be celebrated, each Sunday during The Great Fast Season at 4:00 p.m. preceded by *The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation* @ 3:30 p.m. The remaining churches have been selected to host a different week: (2) **February 25 – St. Elias Church, Munhall – Homilist: Fr. Valerian Michlik**; (3) **March 4 – Saints Peter & Paul Church, Braddock – Homilist: Fr. Wesley Mash**; (4) **March 11 – Holy Spirit Church, Oakland – Homilist: Fr. Frank A. Firko**; and (5) **March 18 – Saint John Cathedral, Munhall – Homilist: Fr. Thomas Schaefer**. 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.



## THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

*The preceding abridged text is taken from an informal lecture Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira gave on February 23, 1964. It's message is just as pertinent today.*

It is said that today's world is profoundly against penance and mortification. This is quite true .... We tend to be against penance because of the principle behind it. This consists in the fact that man is a sinner. **All sin is an insult to Divine justice and majesty, and therefore the sinner must make reparation** by suffering in proportion to the delight that he should not have had but did. Penance therefore is a kind of restitution. Just as a thief who steals money is required to repay it, so also from the standpoint of the designs of Divine Providence, the sinner who steals illicit pleasures to which he is not entitled must also pay something back. According to the scales of Divine justice, this is done by suffering in proportion to the harm that was done. In the act of penance, we find recognition of sin, the gravity of sin, and God's offended majesty. We realize that our offense cannot be appeased with empty words and ideas but with self-control and self-imposed suffering in reparation for what was done. More importantly, penance recalls to mind that **we are conceived in Original Sin and thus have disorderly instincts that must be overcome and fought**. Even when there is no fault of our own, it is often advisable, and many times indispensable, to crush the impulses of these disordered senses by doing something that breaks the cravings of the flesh and thus to practice penance. There is nothing more opposed to the modern mentality than the idea that man is weak, inclined to evil, and must fight his instincts and senses. Watch any modern movie, open any novel or romance or enter any public place and we see that the idea of penance is far away. **Human pride, even more than sensuality, rebels against penance....** God wants us to have the right spirit, principles, the ideas of penance and not just the concrete acts. When penance is done in the right spirit, it above all punishes our pride and makes us bow to the reality of human misery in general and also our individual misery.



## 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*).

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18 ..... I Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks @ 4:00 p.m. by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.  
 February 21 ... II LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.  
 February 23 II LENTEN FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.w/Hramoty — NO MEAT.  
 ..... Pirohi Sales.  
 February 24 ..... Commem. of St. John the Baptist & 2<sup>nd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.  
 February 25 ..... II Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.  
 February 28 ... III LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.  
 March 2 . III LENTEN FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.w/Hramoty — NO MEAT.  
 March 3 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.

## Faith Event of the Week

### The Triumph of True Worship Celebrated Today

#### Commemorated on the First Sunday of The Great Fast

A "guileless image" is so important in our relationship with God as in Nathaniel's case. An Icon (meaning image) depicts a guileless character of its representative created in God's image. In the Old

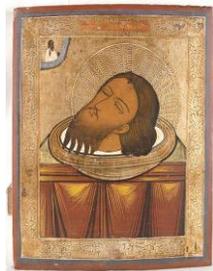


Testament, due to the danger of idolatry, God forbade the Jews to worship the "carved image or likeness" of any creature (Ex. 20:4-5; Duet. 4:15-20). Early Christians, too, in the face of paganism and idolatry, adhered to these Mosaic ordinances. After the victory of Christianity over paganism (313 A.D.), when Christian theology was sufficiently developed, the Fathers of the Church gradually admitted the public veneration of icons. *The iconoclastic fury of Emperor Leo the Isaurian (717-741), during which the leading defenders of the icons were St. Germanus of Constantinople (d. 733) and St. John Damascene (d. 749) made the Church define her teachings. In reply, at the seventh Ecumenical Council of Nicea (787), the Church's teaching concerning the veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed.* **The Fathers explained that the veneration of icons, theologically, was based on the mystery of incarnation, since in the person of Jesus Christ we received revelation not only of the "Word of God" (Jn. 1:1-14), but also of the "Image of God," as attested by St. Paul saying that Jesus is the "image (eikon) of the unseen God." (Col.1:15) Jesus Himself testified: "To have seen Me is to have seen the Father!" (Jn. 14:9).**

## Saint of the Week — February 24

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of St. John the Baptist's Head

The great and glorious Baptist John was beheaded according to the wish and instigation of the wicked Herodias, the wife of Herod. When John was beheaded, Herodias ordered that his head not be buried with his body for she feared that this awesome prophet, somehow, would resurrect. Therefore, she took his head and buried it deep in the ground in a secluded and dishonorable place. Her maidservant was Johanna, the wife of Chuza a courtier of Herod. The good and devout Johanna could not tolerate that the head of the Man of God remain in this dishonorable place. Secretly she unearthed it, removed it to Jerusalem and buried it on the Mount of Olives. After a considerable period of time, an eminent landowner believed in Christ, left his position and the vanity of the world and became a monk, taking the name, Innocent. As a monk, he took up abode on the Mount of Olives exactly in the place where the head of the Baptist was buried. Wanting to build himself a cell for himself, he dug deep and discovered an earthen vessel and in it a head, which was mysteriously revealed to him, to be the head of the Baptizer. He revered it and reburied it in the same spot. Later, according to God's Providence,



this miracle-working relic [The head of St. John] traveled from place to place, sunk into the darkness of forgetfulness and again was rediscovered. Finally, during the reign of the pious Empress Theodora, the mother of Michael and the wife of Theophilus and at the time of Patriarch Ignatius it was translated to Constantinople. Many miraculous healings occurred from the relic of the Forerunner [Precursor]. It is important and interesting to note that while he was still alive, "John did no miracles" (John 10:41), however, his relics have been endowed with miraculous power. This year's commemoration coincides with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday.

## General Announcements

### TIME MAGAZINE: THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY —

By Melissa Chan: Most Americans on Monday will mark the so-called Presidents' Day holiday ... but, contrary to popular belief, on a national level there is no such thing as Presidents' Day. The federal holiday is officially called "Washington's Birthday," and it celebrates George Washington, the country's first commander-in-chief. It has kept the name since its establishment as a legal holiday in 1879, and no Congress has ever moved to rename it "Presidents' Day," according to the Center for Legislative Archives. (It's also not a "national holiday," as that concept doesn't really exist either; in the U.S., legal holidays must be established separately by the states and the federal government.) **George Washington and Martin Luther King Jr. are the only two Americans whose birthdays are federal holidays in the U.S.** Washington's birthday was observed every year as a federal holiday on Feb. 22 — his recognized date of birth — up until 1968, when **Congress passed a law to celebrate the first president on the third Monday in February instead.** The change was part of an effort to create more three-day weekends to spur "the spiritual and economic life of the nation," Congress noted, even though that meant the holiday could technically no longer be commemorated on Washington's actual birthday. Some individual states, however, have changed the name of the holiday as it affects state employees, choosing to call it the more general name in order to honor Washington's fellow February baby, Abraham Lincoln.

**LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH** — And just not on the weekend! It's a special time to incorporate an extra day of public worship into your busy schedule! The



Penitential Season of The Great Fast is manifested in the Church's Greatfast liturgical Hours, and especially the Presanctified Divine Liturgy. If you have never attended a Presanctified before, you are truly missing something special! Join us on Wednesday (MR) at 7:00 p.m. and Friday evenings at (NS) 6:00 p.m. Consult the schedule of services!

**UPDATE ON SANCTUARY LAMPS** — If you are interested in sponsoring a Sanctuary Lamp that continues to burn before the True Eucharistic Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ each week, please submit your \$10.00 stipend in a white envelope with the intention and name of the donor A.S.A.P. There are very few remaining for McKees Rocks and slightly more on the Northside. This is a great gift in remembering your departed loved ones or perhaps expressing thanksgiving for favors received or simply requesting a special intention from Divine Providence.



## Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

**Only Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m. No one to lead the prayer on Fridays! If you are interested please contact the Church Office.**