

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Feb. 4, 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 (\$2,815.50) YP (\$15)	\$2,830.50
Holy Days (\$246.50) YP (\$2) Christmas 2017 (\$10)	258.50
Initial (\$10) B.C.W. (\$28) Coffee Social (\$18)	56.00
Votive Candles	388.50
-	<hr/>
	\$3,533.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$435.70
Improvement	35.00
Votive Candles	54.95
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	\$525.65



Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (44)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (71); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)

Encounter of the Lord, Feb 1 & 2 — (NS) 6:00 pm (7); (MR) 9:00 am (6)

For God so lo**V**ed the world
That He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
Be gott**E**n
So **N**
T**H**at whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life.

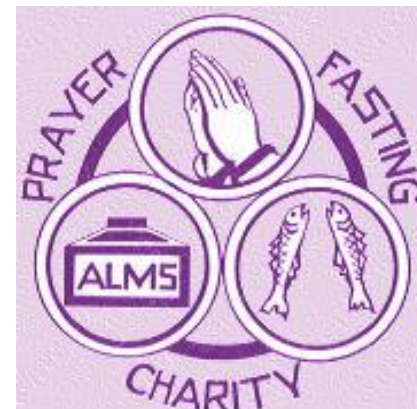
Lent
40 DAYS OF RENEWAL



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

THE SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 11, 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 – 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

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



Of all the things, why did I give up spinach for Lent?



DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nanode@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

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.

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 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

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 11, 2018

Christian Greeting

Volume VIII, 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 Cheese-Fare

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday
The Expulsion from the Garden of Eden



SUN, Feb 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka Children
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
2:00 p.m. (MR) Forgiveness Vespers w/anointing of Oil of Gladness Initiating The Great Fast Season.

BEGINNING THE HOLY & GREAT 40 DAYS FAST

REQUIRED Day of STRICT ABSTINENCE — NO MEAT OR DAIRY PRODUCTS PERMITTED

PURE MON, Feb 12, (1) 9:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours
6:00 p.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies

PURE TUE, Feb 13 (2) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Francis E. Eberle (birthday 2/12) Son: James

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE WED, Feb 14 (3) 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

PURE THRS, Feb 15 (4) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Edward Zotyak Wife: Florence

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE FRI, Feb 16 (5) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours
6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy
6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Commemoration of the Miracle of the Holy Great-Martyr Theodore Tyro

PURE SAT, Feb 17 (6) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Dorothy + Michael Holesh, Jr. Dgtr: Anna

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Triumph of True Worship — First Sunday of The Great Fast

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

THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP

1st Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 5 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Geraldine Nazak Husband: Andy & Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + August J. Manfreda Wife: Olga & Family

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

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 7 – THERESA FECIK; Feb 9 – NICHOLAS SPONTAK; Feb 11 – Carlton Bates; Feb 13 – Charles Sell, EDWARD SPONTAK III; Feb 15 – PAUL BODNARCHUK, Kurt Marks; Feb 16 – James Schilling; Feb 17 – Joshua Alman, Theodore Babin, Julie Kutchmark.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iлона Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, Theresa Kundrat, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Alice Sejka, Millie Sotak, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Julia Wovchko, SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

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): 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Should we confess not doing enough against abortion? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: I do not think you should confess this unless there was a particular, individual instance at least when you did not do what you could. This should be concrete, not general. Otherwise, we could get ourselves into a state about all the evils that we are not doing enough to stop. All of us could do more for world peace or for the family or for the poor and so on, but there is not clearly a sin unless we refuse an opportunity where in justice we should have acted concretely in our own circumstances. So, for example, if you hear some coworkers discussing whether one of them should have an abortion, and you do not say anything to encourage the protection of life, then you certainly should confess that; but if you have not volunteered for the local pro-life ministry when you could, it is not necessarily a sin if you have other good works you are doing.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 11 — February 17, 2018

(MR): In memory of Anna Sejka (64th ann of passing 2/15)

offered by Children

(NS): In memory of Madelyn Harding

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Dgtr: Tamara Harding

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

McKees Rocks Announcements

SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC MEETING — At the Monday, February 5, 2018



PAC Meeting, the following agenda was discussed: (1) Nick Kotik appointed and installed taking the place of Bernadette Gunkel who served her appointed time; (2) Review of the 2017 General Financial Statement; (3) Parish to host the first of five Deanery Vespers on Feb. 18; (4) Corporate Communion and Renewal of Baptismal Vows of 2 children on Saturday, May 5, at the 4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy; (6) Tentative plans to seal parking lot; (7) Annual Dual Parish Picnic on Clever Road, Robinson Township reserved for Sunday, August 19, 2019 and Dual Parish Cookout on Wednesday, July 4, 2017 following the morning Divine Liturgy; (8) Parish to represent the Archieparchial Assembly 2018 now moved to September; and (9) our Patronal Feast Day & Graduate Dinner on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.

PIROHI PROJECT COMMENCES THIS WEEK — Pirohi Sales are: Feb. 16, 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 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

SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC MEETING — At the Tuesday, February 6, 2018



PAC Meeting, (1) Review of the 2017 General Financial Statement; (2) (1) Rectory now vacant since Fr. Radko Blichar and family were transferred to St. John the Baptist Church, Lyndora; (3) 50/50 Raffles will be our only fundraising event with the advantage of GCU Matching Funds up to \$1,500.00 per year. Tickets will now be available for the first drawing on Thomas Sunday (week after Easter) on April 8, 2018; (4) Annual Dual Parish Picnic on Clever Road, Robinson Township reserved for Sunday, August 19, 2018 and Dual Parish Cookout on Wednesday, July 4, 2018 following the morning Divine Liturgy; (5) Parish to represent the Archieparchial Assembly 2018 now moved to September; (6) our Patronal Feast Day & Graduate on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018; and (7) Initial Plans to sell the Social Center and parcel of land next to it. The Berkshire- Hathaway Relator has been contacted to give us an estimate on what price it could be sold. With this information gathered there will be a parish meeting in the Church Social Hall for all parishioners next Sunday, Feb 18 following the Divine Liturgy. We will then decide whether to contact the Chancery for permission to proceed.

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 following churches have been selected to host a different week: (1) **February 18 — Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks – Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskevich;** (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.

TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — Beginning the Penitential Journey with the right Attitude & Disposition (Matthew 6: 14-21)

What do we mean by “Cheese-fare” and to “Give Up?”

Cheese-fare Sunday indicates a farewell to dairy products just as last week's Meat-Fare said farewell to meat products until Resurrection Sunday. As in the early Christian Church dairy products and meat were no longer eaten throughout The Great Fast Season and throughout Holy Week. Although mandatory Church laws have been abrogated as to its obligatory nature, it still encourages all to do so at least on the days prescribed (Pure Monday & Great Friday). In all what is more important is to GIVE UP sin and negativity and PUT ON virtue and being positive. Today, the Church invokes us to remember what participation in sin did — expelling Adam and Eve from Paradise.



Pondering what the Church Fathers Teach us on Fasting

St. Basil the Great: There is both a *physical and a spiritual fast*. In the physical fast the body abstains from food and drink. In the spiritual fast, the faster abstains from evil intentions, words and deeds. One who truly fasts abstains from anger, rage, malice, and vengeance. One who truly fasts abstains from idle and foul talk, empty rhetoric, slander, condemnation, flattery, lying and all manner of spiteful talk. In a word, a real faster is one who withdraws from all evil. As much as you subtract from the body, so much will you add to the strength of the soul. By fasting it is possible both to be delivered from future evils and to enjoy the good things to come. We fell into disease through sin; let us receive healing through repentance, which is not fruitful without fasting. True fasting lies is rejecting evil, holding one's tongue, suppressing one's hatred, and banishing one's lust, evil words, lying, and betrayal of vows... Do not show forth a useless fast: for fasting alone does not ascend to heaven.



St. John Chrysostom – Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoer.... Christ is seeking in every way possible to hinder our conflicts with one another. For since love is the root of all that is good, by removing from all quarters whatever mars it He brings us together and cements us to one another. For there is not one, not a single one, whether father or mother or friend, who loves us as much as the God who created us. (*Commentary on Matthew*). Fasting is wonderful, because it tramples our sins like a dirty weed, while it cultivates and raises truth like a flower.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11 (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 12 **PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.**
 (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew
 with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.
 February 14 PURE WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
 February 16 PURE FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
 Pirohi Sales.
 February 17 Byzan-TEEN Social: Dinner & Ice Skating at RMU following Sat. Divine Liturgy.
 February 18 I Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks @ 4:00 p.m.
 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 & 2nd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

Saint of the Week

The Holy Bishop-Martyr Blaise — February 11

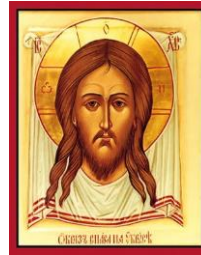
Blaise was born in the Province of Cappadocia. From his early childhood, he was God-fearing and meek. Because of his great virtues, he was chosen as bishop of the city of Sebastea [in Armenia]. Blaise was a great spiritual and moral beacon in this pagan city. At the time of a grave persecution of Christians, St. Blaise encouraged his flock and visited the martyrs of Christ in prison, especially among them was the eminent and glorious Eustratius. When the city of Sebastea was completely depleted of Christians - some were slain, and others fled - the Elder Blaise withdrew to Mt. Argeos and settled there in a cave. Wild beasts recognized the holy man, gathered around him and he tenderly caressed them. But the persecutors found the saint in this remote place and brought him to trial. Along the way, Blaise cured a young boy who had a bone caught in his throat.



To the plea of the poor widow whose pig had been snatched by a wolf, the saint, by the power of his prayer, commanded the wolf to return it. The sinister judges tortured Blaise severely: flogging him and scrapping him with an iron comb. By his steadfastness in the Faith of Christ, Blaise converted many pagans to the Faith. Seven women and two children languished in prison with him. The women were beheaded first and, after that, the wonderful Blaise with these two children was beheaded. He suffered and was glorified in the year 316 A.D. People pray to St. Blaise for the well being of their domestic livestock and for protection against wild beasts. However, in the west, he is also invoked for diseases of the throat.

General Announcements

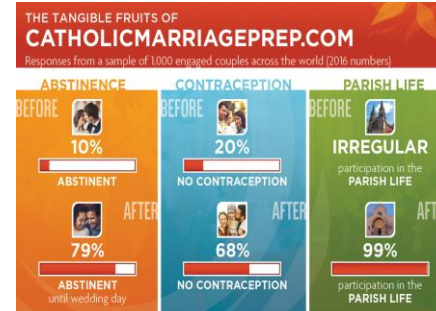
LENTEN REGULATION FOR THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN CHURCH — The following are the Lenten Regulations for The Archeparchy.: The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept....: **SIMPLE ABSTINENCE:** All the faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are bound to abstain from meat. *Simple Abstinence is obligatory on all WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS of The Great Fast.* **STRICT ABSTINENCE** (No Meat or Dairy Products) is to be observed on the first day of The Great Fast — *PURE MONDAY, February 12 and on Holy & Great Friday, March 30.* If you are unable to keep either abstinence for a just cause, you are to **seek a dispensation** from the pastor. A full statement appears in the last edition of *The Byzantine Catholic World (B.C.W.)*



FORGIVENESS VESPERS TODAY — This Afternoon, **February 11, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.** in McKees Rocks, we will gather to bring in the Penitential Season of The Great Fast. Anointing with blessed oil will be administered to strengthen us on the Lenten Journey. Please set aside this time and join us as we embark in this season of penance.



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 10 and 17** 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 the Archieparchial Office for more information (412) 322-8773.**

CALCULATING 40 DAYS OF LENT IN THE BYZANTINE RITE — From Pure Monday, Feb 12 to Palm Friday, March 23. Holy Week is not part of The Great Fast Season. The 40 days prepare us to walk vicariously with Our Lord for the following 8 days (at each Holy Week liturgical service) leading to His salutary Passion, Death, Entombment and Radiant Resurrection.

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS STILL REMAINING — 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 contact the Church office.. 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:

Wednesdays & Fridays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.