

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Jan. 28, 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 (\$2,355) YP (\$22)	\$2,377.00
Holy Days	60.00
Initial (\$20) B.C.W. (\$84)	104.00
Votive Candles	138.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,679.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$506.00
Holy Days (\$65) Theophany (\$15)	80.00
Utilities (\$13) Initial (\$15)	28.00
Votive Candles	34.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$648.00

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (49)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (88); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)

Three Holy Hierarchs Tues, Jan 30 — (MR) 9:00 am (7); (NS) 6:00 pm (7)

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead



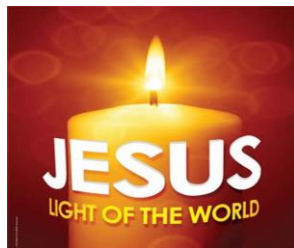
Valerian F. Szal

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

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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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235 McCartney Drive,
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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

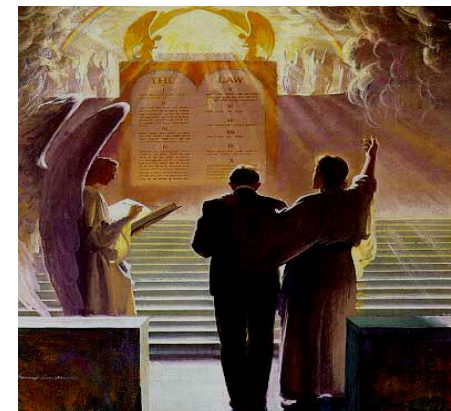
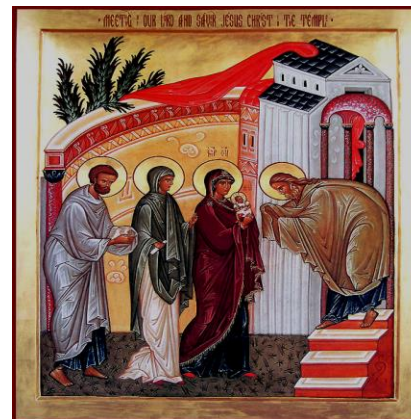
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 4, 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

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 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 4, 2018

Christian Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 5



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu!! — Slava Na Viki!

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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The Sunday of Meat-Fare

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — The General Judgment

SUN, Feb 4	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Bednar (7 th ann of passing)	Bednar & Rippole Families
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11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Feb 5	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Susan Gramata Cusatis	Parents: Eleanor & Basil Gramata
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Final Day of the Encounter Feast

Tue., Feb 6	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Charochak	LynnLee & Pete Giannerakis
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Wed, Feb 7	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ William Hrivnak	Wife: Joyce & Family
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Thrs, Feb 8	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ann Muska (5 th ann of passing)	Gladys Muska & Family
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REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance) for the ill and suffering members of our parishes.;



Fri, Feb 9	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Myron "Rusty" Kundrat (7 th ann of passing 2/1)	Theresa Kundrat
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Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics

Sat, Feb 10	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Helen + Michael Holesh, Sr.	Dgtr: Helen Holesh Marince
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Anticipated Sunday Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Cheese-Fare

4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Mary Kotik (8 th ann of pass 2/10)	John Ciangiarulo
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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
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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.



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 4 – Madelyn Nazak; Kerri Poloka; Feb 8 – Peggy McCusker

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona 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 Pregnanz.

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. Is it true that Pope Francis now permits Catholics to divorce and remarry without the guilt of being in mortal sin and the related penalty of prohibition from receiving the Blessed Sacrament? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Not at all. He cannot teach that as the successor of St. Peter. Rather, what he has been teaching is that there are certain concrete cases that might permit divorced and remarried persons to receive Holy Communion because of some aspect that removes their culpability for their situation. These cases would be so particular that they would have to be described in detail. One cannot generalize about them. He has made it reasonably clear that these cases have to be dealt with one by one. There is no, and there can be no, general permission such as you describe. Many bishops and theologians are not happy with the confusion that has been caused on these points recently, and we should all pray that this confusion is cleared up for the good of the souls who are being misled.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 4 — February 10, 2018

(MR): **In memory of the Ference & Chetoka Families**

offered by Patricia Ference

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

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Uncle Basil & Aunt Eleanor Gramata (NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT WILL COMMENCE SHORTLY — During the reorganizational meeting last Sunday following the morning Divine Liturgy, it was decided that the following Friday dates will be a go for Pirohi Sales: **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. This has been the only consistent fundraiser in the parish, and has been a great asset in contributing to important and well-needed projects. **Please help us by taking Posters (located in the Church Narthex and Side Vestibule) to publicize this event!**



PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW — The members of the PAC are reminded of the meeting slated for **Monday, February 5, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.** Please place this date on your agenda

MONTHLY COFFEE SOCIAL & BYZAN-TEEN BAKE SALE TODAY — Our monthly Coffee Social will take place today following the Divine Liturgy. 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 THIS WEEK — The members of the PAC are reminded of the meeting slated for **Tuesday, February 6, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.** in the McKees Rocks Church Office. Please place this date on your agenda



G.C.U. LODGE MEETING TODAY — The 1st Quarter GCU Lodge Meeting has been changed to next **Sunday, February 4, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are encouraged to attend!

DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SCHEDULED — *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.

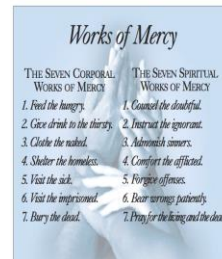


TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST (Matthew 25: 31-46)

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — Evidence of REPENTANCE is EXPRESSED COMPASSION

What do we mean by "Meat-Fare"? — Meat-Fare Sunday indicates a farewell to meat inasmuch as in the early Christian Church meat was no longer eaten from this time on throughout The Great Fast season (today is comparable to Marti Gras of the Western Church). In the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe the season of The Great Fast the Byzantine Catholic Ruthenian (Rusyn) faithful practiced "strict abstinence" (no meat and dairy products) for the entire Lent including Holy Week. Being an agrarian society with harsh weather conditions, a minimal amount of labor was performed, and a greater concentration was given to the Holy Fast. However, even in our technologically advanced American society, we must make time to



participate in The Great Fast services and maintain at least minimal fasting practices if we have the desire to express our love for the Lord. In this spirit, the Byzantine Catholic Church sets before us today the Last or "Terrible Judgment." Those, whom the Church was unable to convert through its instruction on the mercy of God in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, are now presented with the fear of hell in an attempt to affect them. The liturgical services are designed to fill us with salutary fear and sorrow for our sins. One of the requisites for repentance is the law of love by which Christ at His Judgment will measure all of us. Jesus describes in detail the Terrible Judgment. Compassion and mercy were branded by early philosophers as weakness, but in reality they are the signs of a nobility of heart. Christ has taught us that all those who are filled with love for Him should realize that whatever they do for the poor and the afflicted is done for Him. In describing the Last Judgment, we are led to hope for mercy if we have been charitable to our neighbors. We must always realize that our Lord is merciful in the highest degree, but He is also just.

Ordained to the Presbyterate through the "Imposition of the Hands"



Munhall, PA — On **Sunday, January 14, 2018**, Archbishop Skurla ordained Deacon Vitalii Stashkevych to the Priesthood at St. John the Baptist Cathedral. Through the sacramental powers of Holy Orders and imposition of the hands of a hierarch an ontological change took place within the ordinand conferring upon him the grace of the Holy Spirit. He has been designated by God to act in the person of Christ enabling him to give rebirth in the Baptism, sealing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit in Chrismation, feed them with Christ's Most Pure Body & Precious Blood, forgive sins through the absolution, making a man and Woman one in one flesh and anointing them with the spiritual strength necessary on their journey to eternity. Fr. Stashkevych is now able to stand at the Holy Altar to offer the Divine Liturgy which is to re-represent the salvific redemption brought about at Mt. Calvary. This joyous occasion was followed by the sad news on the following day that Fr. Vitalii's dad, Nicholas, 58 years of age, who was taken to eternity from a massive heart-attack. May we join our prayers for Fr. Vitalii as he begins his new life as a priest with his wife, Mary Elizabeth; and may we pray for the repose of the soul of Nicholas, his beloved father, that God may remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3-4	Monthly Coffee Social following the weekend Divine Liturgy.
February 4	1 st quarterly meeting of GCU Lodge 390 @ 2:00 p.m.
	Byzan-TEEN Youth Bake Sale following Sunday's Divine Liturgy.
February 5	MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
February 6	NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
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) 1 st & 3 rd 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 18	I Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks @ 4:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week

The Holy Woman-Martyr Agatha — February 5

Agatha, this glorious virgin and martyr for Christ, was born in the Sicilian town of Palermo of noble and wealthy parents. When Emperor Decius began a persecution against Christians, St. Agatha was arrested and brought to trial before Judge Quintian. The judge, seeing Agatha beautiful in countenance, desired to have her for his wife. When he suggested this, Agatha answered that she is the bride of Christ and cannot be unfaithful to her Betrothed. Quintian subjected her to cruel tortures. Agatha was ridiculed, whipped, bound to a tree and flogged until blood flowed. After that, the judge again tried to persuade her to deny Christ and to avoid any further torture and suffering. To that the bride of Christ replied: *"These tortures are very beneficial for me; just as wheat cannot arrive at the granary before it is cleansed from the chaff, so my soul cannot enter into Paradise if my body, beforehand, is not humbled by tortures."* Then, the torturer ordered that her breasts be cut off and that she be cast into prison. St. Peter appeared to Agatha in prison and restored her to health and wholeness of body. Again, Agatha was led out for torture and again, cast into prison where she gave up her soul to God in the year 251 A.D. in the town of Catania during the reign of Emperor Decius. After her death, the torturer Quintian departed for Palermo to usurp her estate. However, along the way, his horse and the horses of his soldiers became wild with rage. Quintian was bitten on the face, thrown to the ground and trampled to death. Swift was the punishment of God that reached out for this savage crime perpetrated against St. Agatha.



Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

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

General Announcements

LAST WEEK OF HOUSE BLESSINGS — Our Pastor will finish all house blessings this week prior to The Great Fast Season. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office and set up an appointment. 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. Families with children should teach them so that it becomes an annual event, and they learn to incorporate it as they enter adulthood in this Faith tradition.



SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES AVAILABLE— On Friday, Feb. 2, we commemorated 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 were solemnly blessed.



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 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.**



CONVERT INFORMATIONAL CLASSES INITIAL TODAY — Following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy those interested will gather in the Church for a short meeting to arrange dates and times for these classes.

FORGIVENESS VESPERS NEXT SUNDAY — Next Sunday Afternoon, **February 11, 2017 @ 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.

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.