

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Zacchaeus – Feb. 3, 2019

“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 (\$2,865) YP (\$9)	\$2,874.00
Holy Days (\$283) YP (\$2)	285.00
Eastern European Churches \$5) B.C.W. (\$127) Initial (\$40).....	172.00
Coffee Social (\$27.75) Votive Candles (\$395.01)	422.76
	<hr/>
	\$3,753.76

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$.807.15
Holy Days	20.00
Utilities (\$5) Initial (\$30) Improvement (\$45) B.C.W. (\$14)	94.00
Eastern European Churches (\$10) Votive Candles (\$61).....	71.00
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	\$992.15

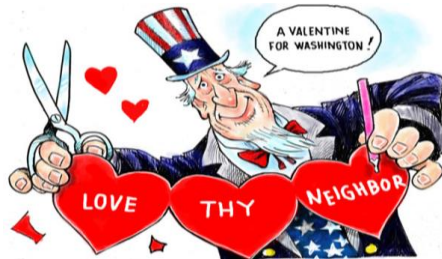
Church Attendance Last Week

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (85); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)



“Now, when they’re clearly out of their league, I like to use this one.”



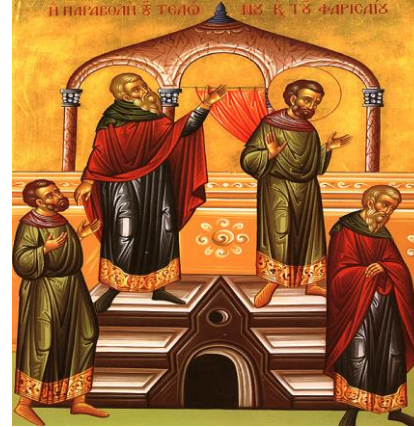
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 10, 2019



For God so loVed the world
That He gAve
His onLy
Be gottEn
SoN
T hat whosoever
Believeth I n Him
Should N ot perish,
But have E verlasting life.

True Love
John 3:16
I LOVE YOU

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

Liturgical Services LIVE: www.Youtube.com then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

Say it again.
I'm wrong. I'm always wrong.

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

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!

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 Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.

Social Hall Rental for (MR) Parishioners: Contact Rectory Office: (412) 771-3324.

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 10, 2019

Christian Greeting

Volume IX, Number 7



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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee			
The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday			
SUN., FEB 10	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna + Michael Sejka	Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Esther M. Kallop <i>(5th ann of passing 2/19)</i>	Valeriano & Kallop Families
Mon, Feb 11	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Kost <i>(40th day of passing 2/6)</i>	Sister: Mary Sahayda
		<i>Traditional: President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday</i>	
Tue, Feb 12	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Francis E. Eberle <i>(birthday)</i>	Leonora & Greg Haffly
Wed, Feb 13	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Kotik <i>(9th ann of passing 2/10)</i>	Lois, Charles & Pat DeAngelis
		<i>Passing of St. Cyril, Apostle of the Slavs</i>	
Thrs, Feb 14	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna Toth <i>(40th day of passing)</i>	Velma Seman
TRADITIONAL MITIGATED SIMPLE ABSTINANCE THIS WEEK. The Church teaches us that fasting does not bring profit to our souls when practised in the fashion of the Pharisee			
Fri, Feb 15	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Formoso <i>(8th ann of passing 2/17)</i>	Husband: Vincent
Sat, Feb 16	9:00 a.m. (NS)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son — 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Geraldine Nazak Husband: Andy & Dgtrs

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN, Feb 17	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margaret Kurtanich <i>(birthday 2/21)</i>	Children
11:00 a.m. (NS)	Commendation: + Infant Vivianne Grace Trapl		Mom, Dad & Sister

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 11 – EDWARD SPONTAK III; Feb 13 – Charles Sell; Feb 15 – PAUL BODNARCHUK, Kurt Marks; Feb 16 – James Schilling.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Betty Spisak, EVELYN VENTO, Anita Wolsko, 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 Dragosh.

MASONIC VILLAGE (1000 Masonic Dr., Sewickley, PA 15143): Marjorie Preganz.

MARIAN MANOR (2695 Winchester Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): Irene Bednar.

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.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR (1028 Benton Ave., PGH 15212): MARY SAHAYDA

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

NEW HOPE ASSISTED LIVING (300 Union Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15202): Helen Hopey.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. If you get married in Jamaica, can you come back to the States and have your marriage blessed by the Catholic Church? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Getting married in Jamaica is not an impediment to a valid marriage, and those who validly marry there are not required to travel to the United States in order to have their marriage blessed, or convalidated. Catholics are required to be married in the Church; if one marries outside the Church, whether in or out of the United States, then one's marriage will not be valid unless it is later convalidated. To deliberately marry outside of the Church and live as husband and wife is not a minor irregularity that one can always plan to straighten out later; it is a grave betrayal of our obligation as Catholics to live by the law of the Church and a sin against God, in whose eyes the marriage is nonexistent.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 10, 2019 — February 16, 2019

(MR): In memory of Anna Sejka *(65th ann of passing 2/15)*

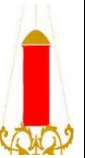
offered by Children

(NS): In memory of Esther M. Kallop *(5th ann of passing 2/19)*

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2019

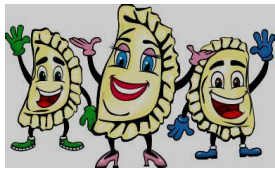
offered by Grandchildren

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2019



Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

MARK THE DATES: PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME NEXT MONTH — In last week's



meeting, many have committed to participate in the upcoming Pirohi Project for the Great Fast Season. We will go ahead with this six week project. **Here are the Friday dates: Mar. 8, 15, 22 & 29; Apr 5 & 12.** Starting prep dates March 6 (morning) & March 7 (evening). Please bring buckets and gloves. There will be a large 90 dozen Pirohi order in March. Discussion to make them resulted on the regular Pirohi day on Friday, March 22. April 12 will be the busiest day; pinchers and kitchen help will be needed. We will be short of help on various days due to health reasons and vacations. We would appreciate more volunteers!

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK — The date and time have been changed to **Sunday, Feb 17, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.** Please place this date on your agenda.

Holy Ghost, Northside

WINTER MONTHS BRING US HIGHER BILLS — Over the past two months, we had to draw from our *Parish Savings and Share Account* to pay a portion of city taxes, utilities and ground and building maintenance. As you know, we cannot make it on our weekly collection. No sooner is the Sunday collection deposited and then it goes out to pay expenses. Please keep our parish in prayer, and if you happen to win the lotto, please consider helping us keep our Church afloat!

SANCTUARY LAMPS STILL AVAILABLE — We have only a few remaining (NS) Sanctuary Lamps for your intentions. They are \$10.00 each and are burned before the Tabernacle of Our Lord Jesus' Real Presence throughout the week. Submit your request and stipend in a regular envelope and who it is that is offering.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The meeting has been rescheduled for **today** following the morning Divine Liturgy in the Church. All members are advised of this change.

SIMPLE ABSTINENCE IS MITIGATED THIS WEEK

The Church looks upon every Friday as a special day of remembrance of Our Lord's salvific death upon the Precious Cross. Fasting/Abstinence are a reminder that we must be humbly grateful to Jesus for dying for our sins. However, there are certain Fridays throughout the liturgical life that we put aside this penitential character for other didactical expressions. For example, this **Friday following the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee, simple abstinence is mitigated so that we focus on the fact that abstinence is not an end in itself.** Christ is our end and He is the only One Who can save us. We cannot save ourselves even if we were to fast everyday! For we who are used to abstaining from meat or doing an equivalent penance each Friday, this is difficult, but necessary to keep us humble and to focus on the value of what fasting and abstinence truly accomplish. It then aids in strengthening us at the appropriate times when we are called to its practice.

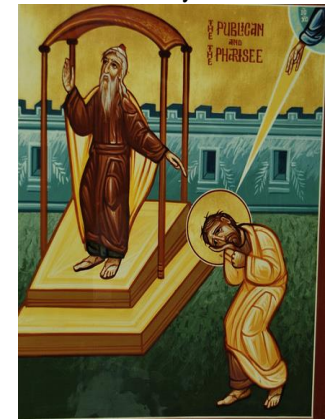


TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — HUMILITY before God & Neighbor (Luke 18: 10-14)

Jesus was constantly combating the self-righteousness that he found such a sinister enemy of spiritual progress. This parable is addressed directly to the self-righteous. The Pharisee and the tax collector are stereotypes of the good and the sinful person. The Pharisee prays with straightforward gratitude for his healthy spiritual state. There is no sign that he is trying to deceive. Pharisees did fast severely twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, for the good of the whole nation. And there is no reason to doubt that he tithed. *The tragedy is that he does not understand the flawed nature of this prayer.* He is deceiving himself. He does not look upon himself as God's servant but as one who deserves good of God for a job well done. Besides this pride, he is guilty of contempt for the tax collector.



The tax collector is conscious of his sinfulness. He knows that he does not deserve consideration because of anything he has done. The prayer he utters is one of the sources of the ancient Jesus Prayer: *"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."* It is this helplessness and dependence that opens one to God's grace; it is the spirit of the child. Earlier Jesus commended one who would say, after doing good work that was a duty, "We are unprofitable servants" (17:10). The debate over faith and works is already engaged here (see Rom 3:27-4:5). Jesus Himself draws the shocking conclusion from the parable: the observant Pharisee goes home unjustified; the sinful tax collector is justified. The reversal maxim concludes the story.

POPE FRANCIS' RETURN: APOSTOLIC VISITATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters: I have just completed a brief (3 day) visit to the **United Arab Emirates**, brief but important, for it **marked a step forward in interreligious dialogue and in the commitment to promoting peace in the world.** This was the first papal visit to the Arabian Peninsula and took place eight hundred years after **Saint Francis of Assisi** visited Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil. The providence of God wished to see a Pope named Francis make such a journey, and I thought often of the Saint for it helped me keep the Gospel and the love of



Jesus Christ close to my heart **My affectionate thanks go to the priests, religious and lay faithful who enliven the Christian presence in that land.** Beyond all the speeches, one further step was taken in Abu Dhabi ... I signed the Document on Human Fraternity. There we affirm the common vocation of all men and women to be brothers and sisters as children of God, we reject every form of violence – especially that committed in the name of religion – and we dedicate ourselves to defending authentic values and peace in the world. Let us pray that the seeds sown during the visit may bear much fruit according to his holy will.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 10	NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting following the Divine Liturgy.
February 17	MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
February 22	NS 1 st All Souls Saturday Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.
February 23	MR 1 st All Souls Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
February 24	1 st Quarterly Meeting of the GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge (MR) @ 2:00 p.m.
March 3	(MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
March 4	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 of Crete with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.
March 6	PURE WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
March 8	PURE FRIDAY: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week

The Passing of St. Cyril, Equal to the Apostles and Teacher of the Slavs — February 14

Saint Cyril (who was originally named Constantine) was Co-Equal to the Apostles and



Teacher of the Slavs, and his older brother Methodius (April 6), were Slavs, born in Macedonia in the city of Thessalonica. Saint Cyril received the finest of educations, and from the age of fourteen he was raised with the son of the emperor. Later, he was ordained as a priest. Upon his return to Constantinople, he worked as a librarian of the cathedral church, and as a professor of philosophy. Saint Cyril successfully held debates with iconoclast heretics and with Muslims. Yearning for solitude, he went to Mount Olympus to his older brother Methodius, but his solitude lasted only a short while. Both brothers were sent by the emperor Michael on a missionary journey to preach Christianity to the Khazars in the year 857. Along the way they stopped at Cherson and discovered the relics of Pope Clement of Rome (November 25). Arriving at the territory of the Khazars,

the holy brothers spoke with them about the Christian Faith. Persuaded by the preaching of Saint Cyril, the Khazar prince together with all his people accepted Christianity. The grateful prince wanted to reward the preachers with rich presents, but they refused this and instead asked the prince to free and send home with them all the Greek captives. Saint Cyril returned to Constantinople together with 200 such captives set free. In the year 862 began the chief exploit of the holy brothers. At the request of Prince Rostislav, the emperor sent them to Moravia to preach Christianity in the Slavic language. Saints Cyril and Methodius by a revelation from God compiled a Slavonic alphabet and translated the Gospel, Epistles, the Psalter and many Service books into the Slavonic language. They introduced divine services in Slavonic. The holy brothers were then summoned to Rome at the invitation of the Holy Father. Pope Adrian received them with great honor, since they brought with them the relics of Pope Clement. Sickly by nature and in poor health, Saint Cyril soon fell ill from his many labors. He died in the year 869 at the age of forty-two. Before his death, he expressed his wish for his brother to continue the Christian enlightenment of the Slavs. Saint Cyril was buried in the Roman church of Saint Clement, whose own relics also rest there, brought to Italy from Cherson by the Enlighteners of the Slavs.

General Announcements

G.C.U. NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING IN TWO WEEKS — Just a reminder



that the 1st quarterly of the newly named Northwest Lodge (formally Lodge 390) Meeting will take on **Sunday afternoon, February 24, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m.** in the MR Church Basement. 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 — FIRST ALL SOULS FORTHCOMING —

The first of five All Souls commemoration will take place on Feb. 22-23. You are encouraged to remember your loved ones by submitting their first names on the envelope in your contribution box. If you have participated last year, you need only to write new names. The Church has the previous names. It is so important that we remember and commemorate our loved ones who have gone into eternity!



SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES STILL AVAILABLE — It is an ancient tradition of our



Byzantine Catholic Church to have candles solemnly blessed on February 2, the *Feast of the Encounter of the Lord with Simeon*. The Solemn Blessing of Candles symbolize “Christ the True Light that has come into the world.” Candles are available for purchase following the Divine Liturgy. 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.

INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE— If MR Members would like a record of their 2018 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 2018 envelopes. Your number may have changed!



HOUSE BLESSINGS JUST ABOUT COMPLETED — Our pastor is just about



finished with house blessings. If you would like to be a part in continuing this ancient tradition of the Annual House Blessing, please contact the Church office A.S.A.P. All Homes should always be blessed each year with this renewal blessing.

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD SUBSCRIPTIONS — For those who wish to receive

The B.C.W. Archieparhial Newspaper throughout 2019, we need your subscription of \$14.00 immediately. The Church Office is ready to send all subscriptions next week. *We must receive the full amount.* If you are not currently receiving it, please submit the envelope in your contribution box, and write NEW on it. *The B.C.W.* is a good source for keep up on the happenings in the Archeparchy. Please consider subscribing and supporting it!

