

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Cheese-Fare – Mar. 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 (\$2,810) YP (\$14)	\$2,824.00
Holy Days	44.00
Coffee Social	28.00
Votive Candles	164.92
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	\$3,060.92

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$465.00
Holy Days	30.00
Improvements	55.00
Candles	48.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$598.50

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (48)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (80); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (24)

Forgiveness Vespers – (MR) 2:00 pm (18)

Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (4); (NS) 6:00 pm (7)

Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (24); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (7)



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

MY GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD

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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 — March 10, 2019



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

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).

Mar 10, 2019 Christian Greeting Volume IX, Number 11



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 TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP			
1st Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy			
SUN., Mar 10 (7)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Vrabel Family	George & Julia Ann Mosko
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Michael Pungras (30 th ann of pass. 3/4)	Dgr: Anna Pungras Demianczyk
	4:00 p.m.	Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Pius X Church, Carrick preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..	
Mon, Mar 11 (8)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
Tue, Mar 12 (9)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Barry W. Smyda	Mom: Annamae Smyda
		REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)	
Wed, Mar 13 (10)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	1 st & 3 rd Penitential Greatfast Hours	
	6:30 a.m. (MR)	Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary	
	7:00 p.m. (MR)	Presanctified Divine Liturgy	
Thrs, Mar 14 (11)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Holy Souls in Purgatory	Joseph A. Cehula, T.O.Carm.
		REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)	
Fri, Mar 15 (12)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	6 th & 9 th Penitential Greatfast Hours	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty	

2nd UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar, 16 (13) 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Palsied Man — Second Sunday of The Great Fast
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Margaret Dubensky Son: Thomas

THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

2nd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy
SUN., Mar 17 (14) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Bednar Irene Bednar & Rippole Families
(8th ann of passing 2/20)
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum 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

Birthdays: Mar 10 – Michael Kachuta; Mar 11– John Harbist; Mar 12 – Kim Zoldos; Mar13 – David Kacsur; Mar 15 – MARTHA LUCAS; Mar 16 – Elizabeth Poznak.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, Irene Bordas, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MILAN JUGAN, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, 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. CONCORDIA AT REBECCA RESIDENCE (3746 Cedar Ridge Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101): MARY ANN CONTI.

NEW HOPE ASSISTED LIVING (300 Union Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15202): Helen Hopey. VICTORIA MANOR PERSONAL CARE HOME (100 Rose Ct., Oakdale, PA 15071): Andrew Drukalsky.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I was told that devout Jews believe in purgatory. Is this true? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: In essence, yes, though they do not call it purgatory. Jews do believe in a purification (a purgation) which takes place after death. When a Jewish person's loved one dies, it is customary to pray on his behalf for eleven months using a prayer known as the mourner's Qaddish (derived from the Hebrew word meaning "holy"). This prayer is used to ask God to hasten the purification of the loved one's soul. The Qaddish is prayed for only eleven months because it is thought to be an insult to imply that the loved one's sins were so severe that he would require a full year of purification. The practice of praying for the dead has been part of the Jewish faith since before Christ. Remember that 2 Maccabees 12:39-46, on which Catholics base their observance of this practice, shows that, a century and a half before Christ, prayer for the dead was taken for granted. Unlike Protestantism, Catholicism has preserved this authentic element of Judeo-Christian faith.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 10, 2019 — March 16, 2019

(MR): In memory of Octavia & Michaeline Balandia

offered by Alice & Anna May Sejka

(NS): In memory of Michael Sotak, Sr.

(MR) All reserved for 2019 offered by Dgr-in-law: Jane R. Sotak (NS) All reserved for 2019



Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

GREAT FAST PIROHI SALES CONTINUE THIS WEEK — We are commencing our six week Pirohi Project this Friday for The Great Fast Season. The remaining dates for sales are **March 15, 22, 29 — April 5 & 12.** Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, or by phone on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. We will only be making a limited amount under this continued 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. If you can spend an hour or two helping this project it would greatly be appreciated. **Just a reminder that on March 22 we are going to have an exceptionally busy day due to a huge order of 90 dozen that a customer placed); any extra help is welcome!**

Place your Order

UPDATE ON SCHOOL ROOF REPAIR — Triangle Roofing of Pittsburgh was contacted to patch the problem a few weeks ago. They had mentioned the roof should really be replaced since it is at least 30 years old. Cost of the repair totaled: \$689.28.

Holy Ghost, Northside

THOMAS SUNDAY 50/50 RAFFLE & ETC. — Our next 50/50 raffles to supplement our weekly income will also include a basket raffle and bake sale.. Tickets are \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00; and 13 for \$10.00. Please support this project! Drawing on **Thomas Sunday, April 28, 2019.** The newly named GCU Northwestern Pittsburgh Lodge (formally Lodge 390) has announced that parishes are able to apply for matching funds up to \$3,000.00 (rather than the previous \$1,500.00). If you are able to donate and make a basket of items for the drawing, please inform our pastor A.S.A.P. We will also include a bake sale and are in need of baked goods. Let us work together and really try to attain the goal of doubling this income!



COMMENCES TODAY: DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SCHEDULE — At this past week's Deanery Meeting, the schedule had been revised and will be submitted to The B.C.W. for publication: *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.** This year's theme is: **"Whose sins you shall forgive will be forgiven..."** (Jn.20:22-23). The following churches have been

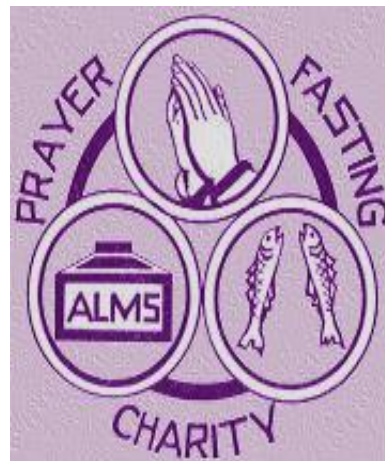


selected to host a different week: (1) **March 10 — St. Pius X Church, Carrick — Homilist: Fr. Adam Hortsman;** (2) **March 17 — Saints Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum — Homilist: Fr. Radko Blichar;** (3) **March 24 — St. John Chrysostom Church, Greenfield — Homilist: Fr. John Cuccaro;** (4) **March 31 — St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair — Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskevich;** and (5) **April 7 — St. John the Baptist Church, Lyndora — Homilist: Monsignor Russell Duker** 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. Its 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

March 10	Daylight Savings Time returns; Clocks SPRING AHEAD an hour. I Deanery Penitential Vespers: St. Pius X Church, Carrick @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.
March 13	Week II: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Penitential Greatfast Hours. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
March 15	Pirohi Sales. Week II: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6 th & 9 th Penitential Greatfast Hours. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ reading of Hramoty. For 2nd All Souls.
March 16	2 nd 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).*



Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

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

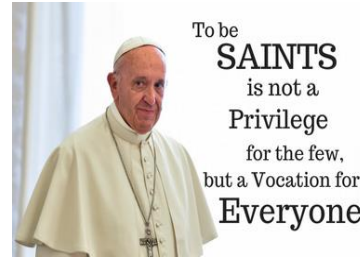
Join us in this Byzantine-Ruthenian Tradition to the Theotokos!

General Announcements

Our Holy Father's General Audience

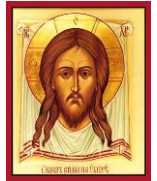
Vatican City State on the 'OUR FATHER'— March 6, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the "Our Father", we now turn to the second invocation, **"thy kingdom come"**. This petition for the coming of God's kingdom is offered frequently and urgently. Jesus has come, and there are multiple signs of the kingdom, yet the world is still marked by sin and the hearts of many remain closed, which compels us to implore the Lord: "your kingdom come"! Sometimes we may ask, why does it emerge so slowly? But God is not like us; God is patient! He wants to establish his kingdom not with violence but with gentleness, for it is like a grain of mustard seed, which, though tiny, grows into a mighty tree. The Lord always surprises us! We see this as the night of Good Friday gives way to the dawn of Resurrection, which fills the whole world with hope. "Thy kingdom come!". Let us confidently plant this prayer amidst our sins and failings, and on behalf of the suffering and needy, for the Spirit has stamped all of Scripture with these words of hope: "Surely I am coming soon". Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20).



LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH AN EXTRA TIME – 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 (MR) Wednesday and (NS) Friday evenings. Consult the schedule for these special penitential services!



CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATIONS —



During the Great Fast Season, the Church is remembering in a special way all those who have departed in the true faith, especially through the reading of the Hramoty (List of submitted names). It is an act of continual love for our beloved who have passed into eternity by rendering the Alms of Prayer. If you haven't submitted the special envelope in your envelope box with the names of your beloved, please do so immediately to that they may be included in the next three special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.

ARCHDIOCESE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

— This may be a chance of a life-time for many who take advantage of it. Archbishop Skurla will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **September 15 through September 24, 2019**. What makes this a special trip is that it will be center from a Byzantine Catholic perspective. Time is winding down to register. There are flyers in the narthex and side vestibule with the price and itinerary. This is truly an opportunity of a life-time that may never come again. Register today!

