Parish Offerings – 2nd Sunday of the Great Fast – Mar. 17, 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 (\$1,803) YP (\$6)	\$1,809.00
Holy Days	15.00
Easter Flowers	365.00
Votive Candles (\$82) Initial (\$5)	82.00
_	\$2,276.00
Holy Ghost Church, Northside	
Regular Offering	
Easter Flowers	20.00
Candles	32.50
_	\$592.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (52)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (75); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)

III Lenten Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (28); III Lenten Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (7) 2nd Universal All Souls Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (24)







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

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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET **1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE** McKEES ROCKS. PA 15136 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY — March 24, 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

Mar 17, 2019

Christian Greeting

Volume IX, Number 12



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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Intention

Date

Requested By

CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY

3rd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 24 (21)

*8:50 a.m. (MR) + Marcella Ziegar

Mildred Terrek

*10:50 a.m. (NS) + Mary Frances Pungras (5th ann of pass 3/30) Sister: Anna Demianczyk *Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross prior to each weekend Divine Lituray **4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Chrysostom Church. Greenfield preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Solemn Holy Day - Mirovanile

Mon. Mar 25 (22)

9:00 a.m. (NS) For The Parishioners of Both Parishes

Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom



6:00 p.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Sister: Anna Pungras Demianczak of Katherine Schadel

Tue, Mar 26 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joyce Buchko (birthday) Sister: Peggy & Church McCusker

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed, Mar 27 (24)

8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours 6:30 a.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Thrs, Mar 28 (25)

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Judy A. Hopey (birthday 3/24)

Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri. Mar 29 (26)

8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty

4th UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat. Mar. 30 (27)

9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great — Fourth Sunday of The Great Fast **4:00 p.m. (MR)** + Andrew Kundrat (53rd ann. of passing 3/30) Theresa Kundrat

The Sunday of St. John Climacus

4th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes **SUN., Mar 31** (28)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Nicole Elena Ringes (birthday 3/30) Baba: Anna Demianczyk 4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair 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 24 - Richard Billy; Mar 25 - Wallace Michalism, RUTH YANOSKO; Mar 26 - James Gunkel, John Harbist, AIMEE HELMS: Mar 27 - LEAH TRAPL.

Pray For the III. Infirm & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Govda, 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. 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. Is it wrong to receive Communion before committing a mortal sin? Suppose you know that you are going to be in a position where you may fall into committing a mortal sin. A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The Church teaches that anyone conscious of a mortal sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before receiving Holy Communion. If you know you are going to be in a position where you may commit a mortal sin, you need to make a conscious effort to avoid those situations that tempt you. The strength to resist sin and break our disordered attachments comes from 1) frequent reception of the sacraments (e.g., confession, Eucharist) and 2) a disciplined prayer life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity wipes away venial sins. By giving himself to us Christ revives our love and enables us to break our disordered attachments to creatures and root ourselves in him. (CCC 1394).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 24, 2019 — March 30, 2019

(MR): In memory of Robert A. Zanis

offered by Lautenschlager Family

(NS): In memory of Andrew & Edward Seman

(MR) All reserved for 2019

offered by Sister: Velma Seman (NS) All reserved for 2019



Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The Spirit of Truth announces the passing of Glee A. Hart, 47,



of Prospect, PA, at the Butler Hospital on Saturday, March 9, 2019. She had previously been to the Cancer Treatment Center, Philadelphia. She was the daughter-in-law of parishioner, Audrey (Thomas) Hart. She is survived by her husband Michael and two children. The Boylan Funeral Home, Renfrew, PA, handled the arrangements The Funeral Mass was offered at St. Christopher at the Lake Roman Rite Church, Prospect on Friday Mar 15. Interment followed at the Crown Hill Cemetery, Prospect.. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathies to the Hart Family. In

blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Glee, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!

GREAT FAST PIROHI SALES CONTINUE THIS WEEK — The remaining dates for sales

are March 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 still need everyone's assistance.. If you can spend an hour or two helping with this project it will greatly be appreciated.



Holy Ghost, Northside

THOMAS SUNDAY 50/50 RAFFLE & ETC. — Tickets for our 50/50 raffle, Easter baskets



raffle and **bakeless bake sale donation** are now available raffle 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.** Our 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 assist us, please it will be greatly appreciated. Let us work together and really try to attain the goal of doubling this income! Tickets for

the Easter Basket Raffle are \$2.00 each, 7 for \$5.00 and 15 for \$10.00. The winners need not be present for the raffle on April 28.

EXTRA ASSISTANCE FOR NS BAKELESS BAKE SALE — Since we are trying to help the Northside Parish receive the full amount of the GCU matching Expansion fund, envelopes are

being submitted to both parishes. Although this is not a mandatory request, it would sure be helpful if our MR parish participate in helping our Mother Church in this project. Remember that prior to the existence of a MR Parish, all the faithful attended the NS Parish. *All donations will be credited to your 2019 financial statement.* Please fill out your name and envelope number so that credit may be given to you.



Every Byzantine Catholic Parish, large or small, is precious in promoting the Gospel and a source of sanctification through the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). It is also the source of maintaining our Byzantine-Ruthenian (Rusyn) traditions to the following generation.

Third Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Cross-Veneration Sunday: We Bow to Your Cross, O Master"

(Mark 8: 34 - 9:1)

On the Third Sunday of The Great Fast, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a



special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and

encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

What Does It Mean to take Up the Cross Daily?

What does this mean, "take up a cross"? It means you will bear with whatever is troublesome, and in this very act you will be following Christ. When you begin to follow Christ according to His teaching and precepts, you will find many people contradicting you and standing in your way, many who will not only deride you but even persecute you. Moreover, this is true, not only of pagans who are outside the church, but also of those who

not only deride you but even persecute you. Moreover, this is true, not only of pagans who are outside the church, but also of those who seem to be in it visibly.... Although they glory in merely the title of Christian, they continually persecute faithful Christians. Such belong to the members of the church in the same way that bad blood is in the body. Therefore, if you wish to follow Christ, do not delay in carrying His cross; tolerate sinners, but do not yield to them. Do not let the false



happiness of the wicked corrupt you. You do well to despise all things for the sake of Christ, in order that you may be fit for his companionship. *St. Caesarius of Arles sermons* 159.5.

Pope Teaches Byzantine Form of the "Sign of the Cross"

At the beginning of the 10th century, Pope Leo IV, instructed his clergy to hold their



fingers in the proper manner when blessing the Sacred Gifts, with two fingers outstretched, and the thumb hidden behind, between them, by which the Trinity is symbolized. He instructed that the people of the Faith should imitate the example of the Priests. By means of the Sign of the Cross to express the elements of our Faith. The thumb and first two fingers joined together indicate belief in the Three Divine Persons as One God. The two remaining fingers lying in the palm of the hand to signify the Divine and the Human natures of

Christ united in His One Person -Pope Leo IV (928 a.d.)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 24 III Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Chrysostom, Pittsburgh (Greenfield) @ 4:00 p.m.
preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.
March 25 Feast of the Annunciation: (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
March 27 Week IV: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours.
(MR) 6:30 p.m. Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
March 29 Week IV: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6 th & 9 th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
March 30 Fourth Universal All Souls Saturday.
March 31 IV Deanery Penitential Vespers: St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair @ 4:00 p.m
. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.
April 3 Week V: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours.
(MR) 6:30 p.m. Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m
April 4 Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m.
April 5 Week V: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6 th & 9 th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
(NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ chanting of the Akathistos Hymn.
Pirohi Sales.
April 6 Akathistos Saturday imploring aid of the Theotokos in our ascetical practices (MR) 9:00 a.m.
April 7 Final Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church, Lyndora @ 4:00 p.m.
preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.
April 10
(MR) 6:30 p.m. Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
April 12 Week VI: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6 th & 9 th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
(NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast. & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.
April 13 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
April 14 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.
Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions by extra Confessor.
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (April 15 through April 20)
Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Thursday (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Friday . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Sat. (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m. — (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

APRIL 21 - EASTER SUNDAY - THE RADIANT RESURRECTION - THE GREAT DAY

(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

General Announcements

Our Holy Father's General Audience Vatican City State on the 'OUR FATHER'— March 20, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the "Our Father", we now turn to

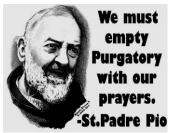
The Lord never tires of forgiving, it is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.

Pope Francis

the third invocation, "thy will be done". We see God's will revealed in the person of Jesus: to seek out and to save that which is lost. If we do not appreciate this we risk misunderstanding the meaning of the third aspect of the "Our Father". We can affirm, however, without a doubt, that God's will is indeed for the salvation of all mankind. Our prayer, then, is offered by children who know their

Father's heart and are certain of his loving plan. This prayer, moreover, inspires in us the same desire for the Father's will as we see in Jesus, especially when, in the garden of Gethsemane, he prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this chalice from me; nevertheless not my will, but yours, be done" (Lk 22:42). Jesus is crushed by the world's wickedness, yet he abandons himself faithfully to the Father's will. We can do likewise, for the conviction that God will never abandon us is more than a hope. It is a certainty!

CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT THE FOURTH ALL-SOULS



COMMEMORATION — We continue to offer the alms of a spiritual work of mercy for 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 so that they may be included in next Saturday's 4th All-Souls

Saturday. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.

DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SCHEDULE The Great Fast Deanery Vespers is

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: (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.

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!