

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Prodigal Son — Feb. 9, 2020

"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

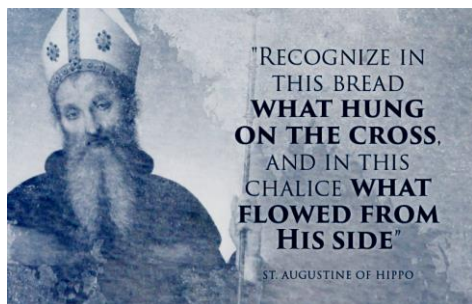
Regular Offering (\$1,691) YP (\$5)	\$1,696.00
Holy Days	58.00
B.C.W.	42.00
Décor Candles (\$52) Votive Candles (\$152.50)	204.50
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	\$2,000.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

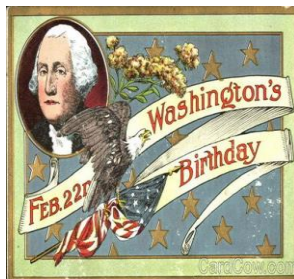
Regular Offering	\$784.00
Votive Candles	51.00
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	\$835.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (38); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (58); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (33)



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"



DESIGNS BY NANCY

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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 16, 2020



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko

Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter

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 - Vigil
Holy Days (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 a.m.; (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 Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge: (MR) Contact Randy Baden (412) 973-1085 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0195.

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).

February 16, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, 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 Meat-Fare

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN., Feb 16 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Bednar, Jr. Irene Bednar & Rippole Families
(9th ann of pass 2/20)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen (Seman) Lucy (birthday 2/9) Joan Senchysyn

Washington's Birthday Observed — Federal Holiday — NO MAIL/BANKING

Mon., Feb 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Olga J. Connelly Irene Herczak Burik
(2nd ann of passing)

Tue., Feb 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emma "Dolly" Safranko (birthday) Grand-Dgtr: Zizi

Wed., Feb 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Robert Diethrich Susan Fejka
(40th day of passing 2/18)

Thrs., Feb 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr. (birthday) Dgtr: Leyte, Mike Tomchak; Son: Alex

 **REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE** (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** (your choice)
for reparation for the sins of abortion & the destructive sin of racism in our country

Fri., Feb 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Eisenman Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics

Sat., Feb 22 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Cheese-Fare — 5th Pregreat Fast Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John Chambers Wife: Julia & Dgtrs.
(9th ann of passing 2/25)



The Sunday of Cheese-Fare

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday

The Expulsion from the Garden of Eden

SUN, Feb 23 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Leslie + Steve Masaros Julia Haluska

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll Son: William.

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 date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners.

Birthdays: **Feb 16** — James Shelling; **Feb 17** — Joshua Alman, Theodore Babin, Julia Kutchmark; **Feb 20** — Monica Lee Lemesh, John Marks; **Feb 21** — Lester Best, Michael Muska.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrutlak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Muha, Irene Palahunik, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, EVELYN VENTO, 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.

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.

VANADIUM WOODS VILLAGE (50 Vanadium Rd, Apt 230 Bridgeville, PA 15017): Helen Hopey.

TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Room 136, Coraopolis, PA 15108): Mike Muska.

VINCENTIAN HOME (111 Perrymount Road, Pittsburgh, P 15237): TAMARA HARDING.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. How do you prove that the Catholic faith is the 'correct' religion to believe in? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** A strong case for the Catholic faith is made by studying history. If you look at the extra-biblical writings of the early Christians, you will see that they taught Catholic doctrines. In fact, the Catholic Church was often referred to by name. The first recorded usage of the word "catholic" is found as early as 107 ad. A disciple of the Apostle John, St. Ignatius of Antioch, said: "Wherever the bishop appears, let the people be there, just as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the catholic church (Epistle to the Smyrnaeans, 8:2). The Catholic Church can trace its authority as the one true Church through its unbroken line of more than 260 popes from Francis back to St. Peter. All other Christian churches are offshoots of the Catholic Church. These churches were founded by mere men or women, not by Jesus, Who is God in the flesh.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Feb. 16, 2020 — Feb. 22, 2020

(MR) **In memory of Margaret Kurtanich** (birthday 2/21)

offered by Children

(NS) **In memory of Vivianne Grace Trapl**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

offered by Dad, Mom & Sister

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

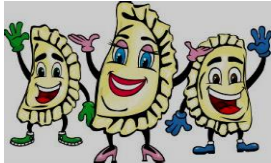
Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Annamae Smyda, 91**, of Stowe Township at Caring Heights Nursing Facility, Coraopolis, PA on Friday, February 7, 2020. She was the mother of Garry and Barbara Leja. She was also the relative of MaryEllen and John Oslick, Aurora, CO. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was on Tuesday, Feb. 11.



Interment took place at Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township, PA; **Jennifer M. McGinley, 41**, of Franklin Park, on Wednesday, January 12, 2020. She was the niece of parishioner, Patricia Porter. Funeral arrangements and Services were handled by the Schellhaas & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Sewickley. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servants, Annamae & Jennifer, and remember them forever! *Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'*

MARK THE DATES: PIROHI PROJECT RESUME NEXT WEEK — We are marching forward with this six-week project. Here are the Friday dates: Feb. 28, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 & Apr. 3. Starting prep and phone-in order dates: Feb. 26 (morning) & Feb. 27 (evening). There will be a large 90 dozen Pirohi order in March. April 3 will be the busiest day; pinchers and kitchen help will be needed. We would appreciate more volunteers to keep us ahead with the demand!



LADIES GUILD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING TODAY — It was suggested to organize a Parish Ladies Guild that would help in facilitating parish projects and social events in the year. Events such as serving Deanery Penitential Vesper Service, hosting the Moleben for our four Holy Hierarchs in October-November, Patronal Feast Day Dinner, etc. There will be a short meeting for those women of the parish that are interested following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy today. We would appreciate you being a part of the team!

Holy Ghost, Northside

No particular announcements this week

General Announcements (cont.)

BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH RALLY POSTPONED THIS YEAR — A note from **Fr. Deskevich**: "A number of people have been inquiring about the Youth Rally. At this time, due to some scheduling "bumps" with San Diego University, the Youth Rally is being postponed for this year and is being rescheduled for 2021. Sorry for the disappointment. But a few things were out of our control." The positive side is that this will give all Youth Groups another year to raise funds for the trip to the West Coast.

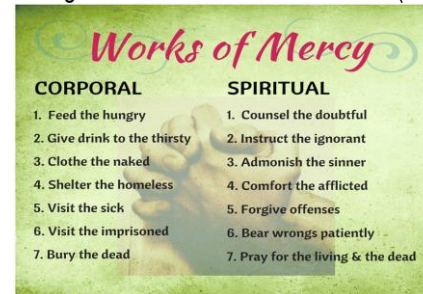


TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

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.

Our Holy Father's General Audience

Vatican City State on the Beatitudes — February 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Beatitudes, we now turn to the second proclamation: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Mt 5:4). Such mourning — described by the desert Fathers with the Greek word "penthos" — is more than mere grief: it is an interior sorrow that can open us to an authentic relationship with the Lord and with each other. The Bible speaks of two types of such sorrow. The first is the pain we feel when faced with the suffering or death of our brothers and sisters. The second involves mourning for sin. Both are grounded in loving concern for others, but above all in love for God. Sorrow for sin — as seen in Saint Peter's tears after his betrayal of Jesus — comes as a gift of the Holy Spirit the Comforter. Let us continually ask for the grace to grieve for our sins and to be open to the healing grace of the Spirit, so that we can comfort others with the same consolation that we ourselves have received.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 23 (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 24 **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 26 **PURE WED:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.;
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 February 28 **PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am;
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 Commencement of Pirohi Sales — Phone in orders on previous Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn
 March 1 Penitential Great Fast Vespers at St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia @ 4:00 p.m.
 March 2 Bible Study: Session I: "Intro to the Bible and first covenant with Adam" @ 7:00 p.m.

SAINT OF THE WEEK— February 17

The Holy & Great-Martyr Theodore Tyro

The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (Tyro) was a soldier in the city of Alasium of the Pontine district (northeast province of Asia Minor, stretching along the coast of the Euxine, i.e.



the Black Sea), under the command of a certain Brincus. They commanded him to offer sacrifice. The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (Tyro) was a soldier in the city of Alasium of the Pontine district (northeast province of Asia Minor, stretching along the coast of the Euxine, i.e. the Black Sea), under the command of a certain Brincus. They commanded him to offer sacrifice to idols. St Theodore firmly confessed his faith in Christ the Savior in a loud voice. The commander gave him several days to think it over, during which time St Theodore prayed. They charged him with setting a pagan temple on fire, and threw him into prison to be starved to death. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him there, comforting and encouraging him. Brought to the governor, St Theodore

boldly and fearlessly confessed his faith, for which he was subjected to new torments and condemned to burning. The martyr Theodore climbed onto the fire without hesitation, and with prayer and gave up his holy soul to God. This occurred in about the year 306 under the Roman emperor Galerius (305-311). Unharmed by the fire, the body of St Theodore was buried in the city of Euchaita, not far from Amasium. His relics were afterwards transferred to Constantinople, to a church dedicated to him. His head is in Italy, in the city of Gaeto. Later on, fifty years after the death of St Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of Great Lent to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. St Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva). In memory of this occurrence, the Byzantine Catholic Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by St John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of the Great Fast was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397).

General Announcements

GREAT FAST ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASSES — Our parish seminarian, Luke Ilyengar, has expressed interest to offer these special classes on Monday's during the Great Fast. They will be on Sacred Scripture. If you are interested, please sign the sheet located in the side vestibule or phone the Church office.



These classes are open to both parishes. The five-week classes are entitled, "From Promises to Pascha: The Bible and the Great Fast. It will cover important topics such as: (1) Introduction to the Bible and the First Covenant with Adam; (2) The covenants with Noah and Abraham; (3) The Mosaic Covenant; (4) The Davidic Covenant and the prophets; and (5) the New Covenant in Christ. These courses are open to the public..

DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS FINALIZED SCHEDULE — At this past Thursday's Deanery Meeting, the schedule had been finalized and will now be submitted to *The B.C.W.* for publication. The Great Fast Deanery Penitential Vespers will be celebrated each Sunday during the Lenten Season at 4:00 p.m. preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:30 p.m. This year's theme is: "I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds" (Acts 26:20). The following churches



have been tentatively selected to host a different week: (1) **March 1 – St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia** — Homilist: Fr. Thomas Schaefer; (2) **SS. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne** — Homilist: Fr. Christiaan Kappes; (3) **March 15 – SS. Peter & Paul Church, Braddock** — Fr. Robert Karl; (4) **March 22 – St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall** — Homilist: Fr. Frank Firko; and (5) **March 29 – Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks** — Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskevich. This will be a great penitential practice & 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 by the hosting parishes following the liturgical services.

FORGIVENESS VESPERS NEXT SUNDAY — Next Sunday Afternoon, **February 23, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m.** in McKees Rocks, we will gather to bring in the Penitential Season of The Great Fast. Anointing with blessed oil (NOT the Anointing of the Sick Sacrament) 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.

PRAYER REQUEST FROM THE CHANCERY — Kindly remember in your prayers Archbishop Skurla and Father Deskevich who have traveled to Rome this past Friday. They, with the other Eastern bishops of the United States and those with them, will attend meetings all next week. On Thursday, they will have an audience with the Holy Father. We ask God for every blessing for them for this *Ad Limina* visit, and for their safety and their return next Sunday, February 23.