

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Zacchaeus — Jan. 26, 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

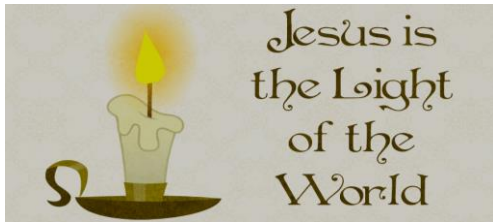
Regular Offering (\$1,808) YP (\$10)	\$1,818.00
Holy Days	40.00
Initial (\$30) B.C.W. (\$56)	86.00
Votive Candles	99.00
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	\$2,043.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$445.00
Holy Days	45.00
Utilities (\$50) B.C.W. (\$28)	78.00
Votive Candles	49.50
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	\$617.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (42); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (74); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)
 Three Holy Hierarchs, Jan 30 — (MR) Thrs., 9:00 a.m. (5); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (5)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 2, 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

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

Super Bowl
 MIAMI
 02.02.20

GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society
 NW PGH LODGE 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 tile 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 - 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 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 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 2, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 5



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

Feast of the Encounter — The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday
Great Sanctification of Candles prior to Divine Liturgy

SUN., Feb 2 * 8:45 a.m. (MR)** + Dennis Bednar (17th ann of pass 1/29) Bednar & Rippoli Families.
***** 10:45 a.m. (NS)** Special Intention (Birthday) Mary Ann Farabaugh

Synaxis of the Righteous Simeon & Prophetess Anna

Mon., Feb 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Harriet Stacey Alice & Anna May Sejka

Tue., Feb 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John A. Jumba M/M John Pieta
(5th ann of passing 2/3)

Wed., Feb 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Susan Gramata Cusatis Mom: Eleanor & Son: George
(4th ann of passing)

Thrs., Feb 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Bernie Delo Pat Ivan

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
First Friday of the Month — Reparation against the sins of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Fri., Feb 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Cam.

Sat., Feb 8 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes.

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

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Julianna + John Bordas Dgr: Dolores & Steve Kosko

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Final Day of the Encounter Feast — The 3rd Great Fast Sunday

SUN., Feb 9 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Muska (7th ann of pass 2/8) Gladys Muska & Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) Esther M. Kallop (6th ann of pass 2/8) Valeriano & Kallop Families

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 2 – Peggi Lucas, Rosemarie Nazak, William Zavidny; Feb 4 – Madelyn Nazak, Kerri Poloka; Feb 7 – THERESA FECIK; Feb 8 – Peggy McCusker.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Muha, Mike Muska, 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.

NORTH HILLS HEALTH & REHAB CTR. (194 Swinderman Rd., Wexford, PA 15090): Mike Muska.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is feminism compatible with the Catholic Faith? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** It depends on what you mean by feminism. If you mean women should have the same basic human rights as men, then certainly Catholic teaching agrees (Genesis 1:27; CCC355). However, if by feminism you mean that there should be no social distinctions between men and women or that women must be ordained to the priesthood, then the answer is “no.” This view is typically called “secular” or radical feminism.” They hold views that are actually contrary to true feminine dignity. For example, a woman’s ability to conceive and bear children is a wonderful gift from God. Yet, many radical feminists view childbearing as a burden or in convenience. They often support abortion, contraception, and homosexuality, things that actually degrade women.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Feb. 2, 2020 — Feb. 8, 2020

(MR) **In memory of Gerta & John Batko**

offered by Great-Nephew : Fr. Firko

(NS) **In memory of Julia & Andrew Kittan**

(MR) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020

offered by Family

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks



CONTINUED UPDATE ON THE NEW HEATING AND COOLING UNITS FOR THE GYM — Major progress was made this past week on Thursday and Friday. Everything has been pretty much completed with both systems with the exception of the electrician who is still completing the high voltage electric for the newly installed units. The photo is the Gravener Heating and Cooling team installing a section of the duct work.

We will also be changing our gym lighting system to LED fixtures at this time since we have access from Gravener's lift and scaffolding available to us. It will be a costly but a much-needed improvement that will last for several years.

LOOKING TO ORGANIZE A LADIES GUILD — 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, etc. There will be a short meeting for those women of the parish that are interested following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, February 16, 2020.**

CATECHETICAL TEACHERS MEETING THIS WEEK — All Teachers in our Eastern Christian Formation (ECF) Program are reminded of the first Thursday of the month meeting this week on **February 6, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.** in the rectory office.

Holy Ghost, Northside

PAC/FAC MEETING CANCELLED UNTIL WE RECEIVE OUR 4TH QUARTER STATEMENT FROM THE CHANCERY

General Announcements (cont.)

SANCTUARY LAMPS STILL AVAILABLE IN 2020 FOR BOTH PARISHES —



Additional Sanctuary Lamps are available for your intentions at both parishes. 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.

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED DEPARTED — FIRST ALL SOULS FORTHCOMING —

The first of five All Souls commemoration will take place on Feb. 14-15. 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! Renew last year's intention.

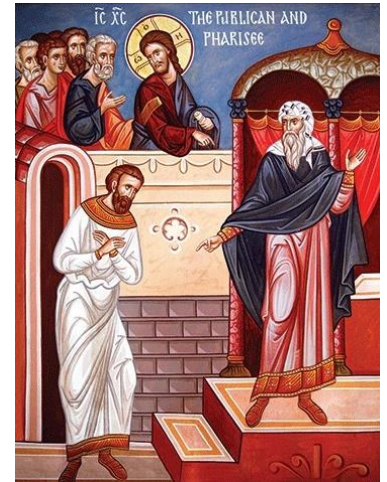


TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

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.



Our Holy Father's General Audience

Vatican City State on the Beatitudes — January 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Today we begin a new series of catechesis on the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus' teaching provides a kind of "identity card" for Christians. Like Moses on Sinai, Jesus gives these "new commandments" from a hillside. He does not impose them but instead proposes them as the path to true happiness in the future that God promises to his faithful people. Each Beatitude is composed of three parts: the opening word "Blessed", followed by the situation in which those who are called blessed find themselves — poor in spirit, mourning, thirsting for justice — and finally the reason for which they are blessed. The Beatitudes teach that we are blessed not by our present situation, but rather by the new condition that is ours by God's grace. This first sermon of Jesus thus presents eight "doors" through which we can encounter the power of God's love to transform our lives and history. The Beatitudes point us beyond our limitations, tears and failures towards that Paschal joy born of Christ's own victorious passage from death to life.



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 9	GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge meeting at 2:00 p.m.
February 10	MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting.
February 14	NS 1 st All Souls Saturday Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.
February 15	MR 1 st All Souls Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
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) 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 26	PURE WED: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
February 28	PURE FRIDAY: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

SOLEMN HOLY DAY TODAY

The Encounter of the Lord – February 2

The fortieth day after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the



Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself. "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2 & Leviticus 12:2-7). Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver did not, in anyway, want to transgress His own Law whom He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zachariah, the father of John the Forerunner, was on duty in the Temple ["serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" St. Luke 1:8]. Zachariah placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion, two unusual persons

appeared in the Temple: the Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: "Now, Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation" (St. Luke 2: 29-30). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" (St. Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayer recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One. The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zachariah because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this is the new king about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime, the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Encounter of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times but the solemn celebration of this day was established in the year 544 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

General Announcements

SOLEMN BLESSING OF CANDLES THIS WEEK — Today, we commemorate 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 of the Great Sanctification that candles are solemnly blessed prior to the Divine Liturgy, and distributed to the people to hold as we worship Our Lord. Although the Church provides candles, you may

also wish to bring your own for the solemn blessing.

HOUSE BLESSING CONTINUE — As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection which is of greater importance and most effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office and set up a time for the pastor's visitation.



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD SUBSCRIPTION NOW BEING SENT IN THIS WEEK — Our *Archieparchial B.C.W. Newspaper* is an excellent source for providing



news of our Church. Please renew your annual subscription of \$14.00 in the church envelope. All renewals and new subscriptions are being sent in this week. God bless all who have donated extra so that our shut-ins can receive a complimentary copy. We have reached enough funds to meet this end. We are still receiving donations to purchase envelopes and stamps (which is costly) to send them the weekly *S.O.T. (Spirit Of Truth) Church Bulletin* to keep them informed of the happenings in our parish.

INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE— If MR Members would like a record of their 2019 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 have already been available. Please discontinue using your 2019 envelopes. Your number may have changed!



GCU NORTHWEST LODGE MEETING NEXT WEEK — Just a reminder that the 1st



quarterly Lodge Meeting will take place next **Sunday afternoon, February 9, 2020 @ 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.