

**Parish Offerings – 32rd Sunday after Pentecost — Jan. 19, 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**

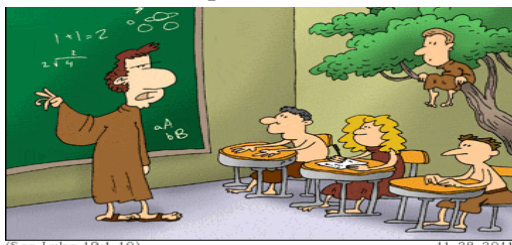
Regular Offering (\$1,581) YP (\$12) .....	\$1,593.00
Holy Days .....	10.00
Initial (\$20) B.C.W. (\$98) .....	118.00
Votive Candles .....	75.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,796.50

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$590.00
B.C.W. ....	28.00
Votive Candles .....	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$658.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (27); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (68); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)



(See Luke 19:1-10) **YOUNG ZACCHAEUS IN SCHOOL** 11-28-2011

**LOOK OUT, EVERYBODY! I'M GONNA BE CRABBY FOR THE REST OF THE DAY!!**



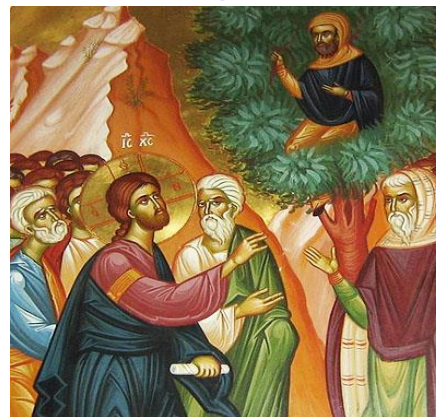
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**225 OLIVIA STREET  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136**

**1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212**

**THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — January 26, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)**

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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 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!

**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  
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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**

**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!**

# 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).

January 26, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 4



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
	<b>Sunday of Zacchaeus</b> <b>The 1<sup>st</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday</b>		
SUN., Jan 26	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Forgotten Souls in Purgatory	Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Michael Barbush	Anonymous
Mon., Jan 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Karen (Hubal) Meloni	 Anonymous
Tue., Jan 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Pauline (Wargo) Gaydas	Anonymous
Wed., Jan 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Lillian Buchko	Petruna & Mazur Families

## Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs — Simple Holy Day

Thrs., Jan 30 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Sr. Ann Fedyszak, OSBM (birthday) Bilak & Tomchak Families  
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Fri., Jan 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention for the Intention of the Givers

Prefestive of the Encounter Feast



REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for Peace in the whole world  
Sat., Feb 1 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes.

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Publican & Pharisee— 2<sup>nd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday  
\*\*\* 3:45 p.m. (MR) + Myron F. Kundrat  
(9<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/1) Theresa Kundrat

## Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

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

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

## 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: Jan 26 – DOLORES HUDANICK; Jan 29 – Richard Cifrulak; Jan 31 – Burt Cifrulak, GARY MULLEN, DAMIAN TRAPL; Feb 1 – Karen Grzywinski.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, 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. Will God accept you if you are gay? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: Certainly, if a homosexual person lives a chaste life and does not act on his or her orientation (2 Tim 2:19; Sirach 21:1-2). In fact, if a homosexual remains chaste, he or she will surely store up heavenly treasures due to the difficulties they face (CCC 2358). A chaste homosexual is truly heroic, especially in this age when the lifestyle is so widely tolerated and even promoted (1 Pet 2:11; Rom 12:1). God is love, so in that sense He "accepts" everybody. But He does not accept everything a person does (1 Jn 4:8). The real question is, will we accept God? Will we accept His love for us, even if that means giving up whatever sinful lifestyle we have chosen (Mt 5:1-12, 6:19-21)? The pressure to abandon God's laws is certainly great!

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jan. 26, 2020 — Feb. 1, 2020

(MR) In memory of Claudia C. Verner (3<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing 1/16)

offered by Husband: George

(NS) In memory of Helen (Seman) Lucy (birthday 2/9)

(MR) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020

offered by Anonymous

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020

## Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

### UPDATE ON THE NEW HEATING AND COOLING UNITS FOR THE GYM —



This past Thursday morning, Gravener Heating & Cooling placed the two 10 tons heating and cooling units on the gym roof. They will be working on installing the duct work on Monday. The previous heating system became antiquated with steam pipes beneath the gym floor rotted thus leaking hundreds of gallons of water. The boiler room retention tanks could no longer maintain the water, thus shutting the gym heating system down. It would have been extremely costly to repair the problem since the entire gym floor would have to be dug up and all fixtures replaced. The advantage of this new system is that we will now have air-

conditioning connected to the forced-air heating. Here is a picture of the crane that lowered one of the units onto the roof. Our Parish Savings and Share account will be the source of payment.

## Holy Ghost, Northside

**LIGHT OF LIFE MISSION SENDS GRATITUDE —** *“Dear Friends of Holy Ghost Church, We are so thankful for your generosity to Light of Life this holiday season! Your monetary gift of \$135.00 in combination with other donors enabled us to serve hundreds of Christmas meals, as well as meals to local high-rises. We were also able to distribute almost 1,500 Christmas gifts to men, women, and children in our Programs. Overall, it was a wonderful season here at Light of Life Rescue Mission.... Thank you, again, for providing the same holiday spirit to those we serve. We are blessed to have such a strong support network and a God that provides immensely for us.”* --- With gratitude, Jerrel T. Gilliam, Executive Director.

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### GRATITUDE TO ALL FROM BOTH PARISHES —



A special thank you is extended to all who stayed to dismantle the Christmas decorations last week at both parishes. Your sacrificial and unselfish gesture made it possible to complete the task within a reasonable time. Team-Work is awesome! God bless you for your assistance! May God grant you many happy and blessed years full of health and happiness! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

### 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.



## Today's Gospel Meditation

### The 1st of Five Sundays Prior to the Great Fast

#### The DESIRE to Follow Jesus (Luke 19: 1-10)

Today commences the first of five Sundays in preparation to the Lenten Season



which is still one month away. The theme of “Repentance” is set before us and continues for two forthcoming Sundays. Today lesson is the first Pregreatfast **Sunday of Zacchaeus**. His name means PURE or JUSTIFIED. HE was the wealthy man of Jerusalem who gathered revenue for the Roman government, but who became a disciple of Christ (Luke 19:1-10). A "chief publican," Zacchaeus might have been of a higher grade than Matthew. Although not one of Christ's expected converts, Zacchaeus had heard much about Christ and **DESIRED** to see Him for himself. When ultimately Christ came his way there were two obstacles in his way—the crowd, and his own short stature. But he quickly overcame both hindrances. Our Lord called Zacchaeus

down and invited Himself to his house. Zacchaeus was a sinner and Christ saved him. Quickly Zacchaeus revealed the depth of his **DESIRE** and surrendered to his newly found Master. There came an immediate and generous restitution. His **DESIRE** for Jesus teaches us that through Repentance we take our first serious step to surrender ourselves to Him and follow it by good deeds.

## Our Holy Father's General Audience

### Vatican City State on the Acts of the Apostles — January 22, 2020

**Dear Brothers and Sisters:** Today's catechesis occurs in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, whose theme this year – on hospitality – was prepared by the Christian communities of Malta and Gozo. The theme is based on Saint Paul's dramatic experience of being shipwrecked at Malta, and the welcome he and his companions received there. Indeed, in contrast to the sea's violence, the survivors received “unusual kindness” (Acts 28:2), reflecting God's love for them. This hospitality was then repaid when Paul healed many sick people, thus revealing God's merciful love. Hospitality is an important ecumenical virtue, which is open to listening to the experience that other Christians have of God. When we welcome Christians of a different tradition we reveal God's love to them and receive the gifts that the Holy Spirit has sown in them. In this way, we Christians are challenged to overcome our divisions and to show Christ's love more effectively to others, especially the many migrants who, like Paul, face danger at sea, as they flee from peril. Working together like this will make us both better disciples of the Lord and more united as the People of God.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 30 .....	Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs – Simple Holy Day – (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 pm.
February 2 .....	Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy. We commence 15 minutes earlier.
.....	NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting following DL.
February 9 .....	GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge meeting at 2:00 p.m.
February 10 .....	MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting.
February 14 .....	NS 1 <sup>st</sup> All Souls Saturday Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.
February 15 .....	MR 1 <sup>st</sup> All Souls Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
February 23 .....	(MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
February 24 .....	<b>PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.</b>
(MR) 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> .....	Greatfast Hours @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.

## Saint of the Week — January 27

### Transposition of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom

This great ecumenical teacher and hierarch died in the city of Comana in the year 407 on his way to a place of exile. He had been condemned by the intrigues of the empress

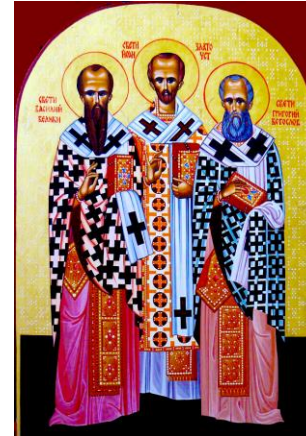


Eudoxia because of his daring denunciation of the vices of those ruling over Constantinople. The transfer of his venerable relics was made in the year 438, thirty years after the death of the saint during the reign of Eudoxia's son emperor Theodosius II (408-450). Saint John Chrysostom had the warm love and deep respect of the people, and grief over his untimely death lived on in the hearts of Christians. Saint John's disciple, Saint Proclus, Patriarch of Constantinople (434-

447), during services in the Church of Hagia Sophia, preached a sermon praising Saint John. He said, "O John, your life was filled with sorrow, but your death was glorious. Your grave is blessed and reward is great, by the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ O graced one, having conquered the bounds of time and place! Love has conquered space, unforgetting memory has annihilated the limits, and place does not hinder the miracles of the saint." Those who were present in church, deeply touched by the words of Saint Proclus, did not allow him even to finish his sermon. With one accord they began to entreat the Patriarch to intercede with the emperor, so that the relics of Saint John might be brought back to Constantinople. The emperor, overwhelmed by Saint Proclus, gave his consent and gave the order to transfer the relics of Saint John. But those he sent were unable to lift the holy relics until the emperor realized that he had sent men to take the saint's relics from Comana with an edict, instead of with a prayer. He wrote a letter to Saint John, humbly asking him to forgive his audacity, and to return to Constantinople. After the message was read at the grave of Saint John, they easily took up the relics, carried them onto a ship and arrived at Constantinople. The coffin with the relics was placed in the Church of Holy Peace (Hagia Eirene). When Patriarch Proclus opened the coffin, the body of Saint John was found to be incorrupt. The emperor approached the coffin with tears, asking forgiveness for his mother, who had banished Saint John. All day and night people did not leave the coffin. In the morning the coffin was brought to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The people cried out, "Father, take up your throne." Then Patriarch Proclus and the clergy standing by the relics saw Saint John open his mouth and say, "Peace be to all." Many of the sick were healed at his tomb. The celebration of the transfer of the relics of Saint John Chrysostom was established in the ninth century.

## General Announcements

**FEAST OF THE 3 HOLY HIERARCHS ON WEDNESDAY** — In the month of January, each of these saints has their own feast day. **St. Basil the Great, January 1; St. Gregory the Theologian, January 25;** and the transposition of the relics of **St. John Chrysostom, January 27.** This combined feast day, January 30, was instituted in the eleventh century during the reign of Emperor Alexius Comnenus. At one time a debate arose among the people concerning who of the three is the greatest? Some extolled Basil because of his purity and courage; others extolled Gregory for his unequaled depth and lofty mind in theology; still others extolled Chrysostom because of his eloquence and clarity in expounding the Faith. Thus some were called Basilians, others Gregorgians, and the third were called Johannites. This debate was settled by Divine Providence to the benefit of the Church and to an even greater glory of the three saints.



Bishop John of Euchaita (June 14) had a vision in a dream: At first, all three of these saints appeared to him separately in great glory and indescribable beauty, and after that all three appeared together. They said to him, "As you see, we are one in God and there is nothing contradictory in us; neither is there a first or a second among us." The saints also advised Bishop John that he write a common service for them and to order a common feast day of celebration. Following this wonderful vision, the debate was settled in this manner: **January 30** would be designated as the common feast of these three hierarchs. The Greeks consider this feast not only an ecclesiastical feast but their greatest national school holiday

**INVITE YOUR PASTOR TO BLESS YOUR HOME EACH YEAR** — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our home, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office.



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*like to subsidize a year's subscription for them, please consider donating the annual cost of \$14.00.* To receive this gift subscription, they remain connected to their Church that cares for them throughout the year! Remaining funds will be used as postage to subsidize weekly Church bulletin postage for them! It would be greatly appreciated!