

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of Cheese-Fare — Feb. 23, 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 (\$1,860) YP (\$9) .....	\$1,869.00
Holy Days .....	68.00
Eastern European .....	110.00
Votive Candles .....	78.01
	<hr/>
	\$2,125.01

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$315.00
Holy Days (\$30) Easter Décor (\$10) .....	40.00
Utilities .....	15.00
Votive Candles .....	45.00

**Church Attendance Last Week \$410.00**

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (37); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (85); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)

*Forgiveness Vespers – (MR) 2:00 pm (15)*

*Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (5); (NS) 6:00 pm (5)*

*Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (25); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (N/A)*



THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT



THERE'S SOME SALESMAN HERE WITH A GOOD DEAL ON AN APPLE ... ARE WE INTERESTED?

**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  
*\*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  
 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!**

**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

**The Triumph of True Worship — March 1, 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
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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).

March 1, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 9



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

### THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

**SUN, Mar 1** (7) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Jennie + George Timulak Dgtr: Bernadette Gunkel & Family  
**11:00 a.m. (NS)** + Andrew + Joseph + John Hrivnak Nephew: Fr. Firko  
**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar 2 (8) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + Charles Porter Dgtr: Patty Porter

Tue, Mar 3 (9) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Kundrat Theresa Kundrat  
(7<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/8)

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**Wed. Mar 4** (10) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours  
**6:30 a.m. (MR)** Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary  
**7:00 p.m. (MR)** Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Thrs, Mar 5 (11) 8:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

**First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**Fri. Mar 6** (12) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours  
**6:00 p.m. (NS)** Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty

### 2<sup>nd</sup> UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

**First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

**Sat, Mar, 7** (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)** + Agnes Bialek (12<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/6) Dgtr: Eileen & Kevin Finnegan

### THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

**SUN., Mar 8** (14) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Anna + Michael Sejka Children  
**11:00 a.m. (NS)** + Esther M. Kallop (birthday 3/7) Valeriano & Kallop Families  
**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne 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 date not be published.

**Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners.**

**Birthdays: Mar 1** – JAMES LASKO, Kimberly Ruud; **Mar 4** – Leyte Tomchak; **Mar 5** – Mary Elizabeth Stashkevych; **Mar 7** – Andrew Hrishenko, WILLIAM POLOKA, Madilyn Usowski.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuнас, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, 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.** Why can't we eat meat on Wednesday and Fridays in Lent? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Church asks us to abstain from meat on these days as a means of "offering our bodies as a living sacrifice" in union with Christ (Rom. 12:1; CCC 1434). The purpose is not to make life tough for us. The Church is truly working in our best interest and only asks us to do what is ultimately good for us. It has always been a tradition of the Church from apostolic times to practice penance on Wednesdays and Fridays as report in the early 1<sup>st</sup> century writing known as the Didache. Fridays remind us to do penance since it was the day of Our Lord's Crucifixion, the ultimate sacrifice. We do penance for several reasons: (1) As a way to atone for sins of the past, both ours and others (Col. 1:24); (2) To lean to master our inclinations towards sin (Jas. 1: 2-4); (3) To help us prepare for Holy Week and the Feast of the Radiant Resurrection; (4) As a sign of our conversion; and (5) As a way to purify our soul (CCC 2043).

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**Mar. 1, 2020 — Mar. 7, 2020**

(MR) **In memory of Anna & Michael Goyda**

offered by Grand-Dgtr: Mary Ann Goyda

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

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

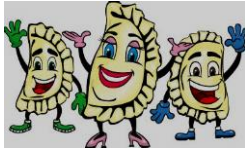
offered by Damian, Leah & Eliana

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020



## Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

REMAINING DATES FOR THE PIROHI PROJECT — We are marching forward with this six-week project. Remaining Friday dates: **Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 & Apr. 3.** Starting prep and phone-in order dates: Mar. 4 (morning) & Mar. 5 (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!



## Holy Ghost, Northside

No Particular announcements this week

## General Announcements (cont.)

**BISHOP GEORGE GALLARO APPOINTED TO A VATICAN ASSIGNMENT** — Holy Father

Francis has appointed Bishop George Demetrio Gallaro as the new Secretary of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches and bestowed the title of Archbishop. Published on Tuesday February 25, 2020 at noon Italian time in the Sala Stampa, the former Bishop of the Eparchy of Piana degli Albanesi di Sicilia was appointed to the rank of titular Archbishop as well. Archbishop Gallaro served as a professor of Canon Law at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, PA. On March 31, 2015 he was named by Pope Francis as a bishop of the Italo-Albanian Eparchy of Piana degli Albanesi, Sicily.



**GREAT FAST ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASSES BEGIN TOMORROW** — Seminarians, Luke lyengar & Christopher Davel, will be offering these special classes on Monday's during the Great



Fast. The subject will be from 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. Please sign up today!

**DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS JOURNEY COMMENCES TODAY** —The Great Fast Deanery Penitential Vespers will be celebrated each Sunday during the Lenten Season at 4:00

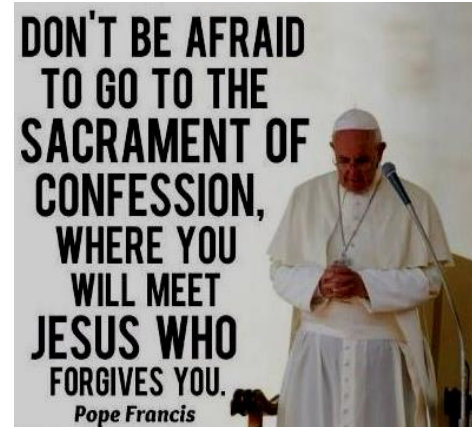
p.m. preceded by the *Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:30 p.m.* This year's theme is: "I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds" (Acts 26:20). The following churches have been tentatively selected to host a different week: (1) **March 1 – St. 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.



## 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

Mar 1	..... Penitential Great Fast Vespers at St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia @ 4:00 p.m.
Mar 2	..... Bible Study: Session I: "Intro to the Bible and first covenant with Adam" @ 7:00 p.m.
Mar 4	..... <b>II LENTEN WED:</b> (MR) 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — <b>NO MEAT</b> ..... Phone in orders on previous Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn
Mar 6	..... <b>II LENTEN FRIDAY:</b> (MR) 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m — <b>NO MEAT.</b>
March 7	..... 2 <sup>nd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
March 8	..... <b>II Deanery Penitential Vespers</b> at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne @ 4:00 p.m. ..... Clocks <b>SPRING AHEAD ONE HOUR.</b>
Mar 9	..... Bible Study: Session II: "The Covenants with Noah & Moses" @ 7:00 p.m.
March 11	..... <b>III LENTEN WEDNESDAY:</b> (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — <b>NO MEAT.</b>
March 13	..... <b>III LENTEN FRIDAY:</b> (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — <b>NO MEAT.</b> ..... Pirohi Sales.
March 14	..... 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 & Fridays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Don't forget: Clocks SPRING AHEAD ONE HOUR next Sunday!**

# General Announcements

## Our Holy Father's General Audience

**Vatican City State on the BEGINNING OF THE GREAT FAST—  
February 26, 2020**

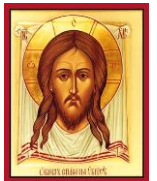
Dear Brothers and Sisters: We commence our annual Lenten journey of preparation for Easter. In a sense, we imitate Jesus, who spent forty days of prayer in the desert preparing for his public ministry. From a spiritual perspective, the desert is a place of life, not death. It is a place of silence, where we are interiorly free to hear the Lord's word and to experience his loving call. In our busy world, how much we need that kind of silence, in



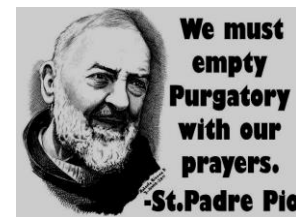
order to grow in prayerful openness to God, to cultivate an ecology of the heart and to center our lives on the things that really matter. An important part of our Lenten desert experience is the practice of fasting, which trains us to recognize, in simplicity of heart, how often our lives are spent in empty and superficial pursuits. The solitude of the desert makes us all the more sensitive to those in our midst who quietly cry out for our help and encouragement. This Lent, may our prayer, fasting and works of mercy strengthen us in our resolve to follow the Lord on his journey through Good Friday to Easter Sunday, and enable us to know the power of his grace, which can make of every desert a garden of new life.

**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

Lenten special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.