

Parish Offerings – 1st Sunday of Great Fast — Mar. 1, 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 (\$3,045.75) YP (\$10)	\$3,055.75
Holy Days	72.00
Votive Candles	145.75
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	\$3,273.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

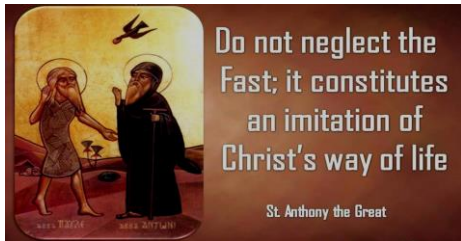
Regular Offering	\$587.00
Holy Days	5.00
Utilities (\$9) Improvements (\$40) B.C.W. (\$14)	63.00
Votive Candles	51.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$706.50

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (38); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (89); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (21)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy

II Lenten: Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (21); Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (N/A)



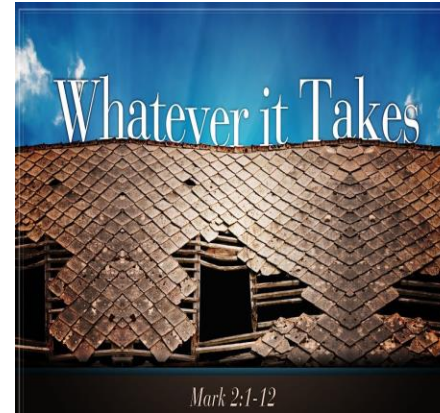
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of the Palsied Man — March 8, 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*

*Create
in me a
clean heart
O God*

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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).

March 8, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 10



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

2nd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 8 (14) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** Health & Welfare of Nephew: Mark & Nancy Cifrulak
Helen Best (90th Birthday 2/26)

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.

Commemoration of the 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

Mon, Mar. 9 (15) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Barry W. Smyda (2nd ann of pass. 3/8) M/M John Oslick

Tue, Mar 10 (16) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Carol Schaner (birthday 3/9) Shirley Zetts & Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed. Mar 11 (17) **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 12 (18) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Dimitri Gramata (55th ann of pass 3/9) Eleanor & George

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri. Mar 13 (19) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours



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

3rd UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar 14 (20) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Cross-Veneration — Third Sunday of The Great Fast

***3:50 p.m. (MR)** + Loretta Yakubik (12th ann. of passing 3/13) Dgtr: Evelyn



CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY

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

SUN., Mar 15 (21) ***8:50 a.m. (MR)** + Mosko Family Julia Ann & George Mosko

***10:50 a.m. (NS)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

***Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross prior to each weekend Divine Liturgy**

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church,
Braddock 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 10 — Michael Kachuta; **Mar 12** — Raymond Zoldos, David Kacsur.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Iona 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. Should we do things to be saved or because we are saved? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** First, let us be clear on how we are saved. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ (Eph 2:8-9; CCC 161), not by our own efforts. In this sense, works can't save us. But we must cooperate with grace; faith must be completed by our love and obedience in order to believing, saving faith (Gal 5:6; Rom 1:8; Jas 2:8-26). Here, works of Christian obedience, motivated by the love of God and neighbor, come into play. Without such works, our faith is dead and cannot save us (CCC 162). So our cooperation — our "work" in a very limited sense — is necessary for salvation. Our part is to say "yes" and to love God with our whole heart, mind, and strength by active obedience. One thing to keep in mind: Being saved is more than a "one-time event." It is a process. There are "three tenses" to salvation. If someone asks, "Are you saved?" you should answer: *I have been saved* from my sins through Christ's death and resurrection. *I am being saved* as I cooperate with God's grace. And *I will be saved* as long as I do not reject God's love and I die in His friendship (that is in a state of grace)."

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Mar. 8, 2020 — Mar. 14, 2020

(MR) **In memory of Shirley H. Scheibel**

offered by Bernetta

(NS) **In memory of Mary Bunnworth**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

offered by Sister: Velma Seman

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

REMAINING DATES FOR THE PIROHI PROJECT — Remaining Friday dates: **Mar. 13, 20, 27 & Apr. 3.** Starting prep and phone-in order dates: Mar.. 11 (morning) & Mar. 12 (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!



BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH GROUP OFFERS A MEATLESS ITEM — Our Byzan-Teen Youth Group will be selling haluski today following the morning Divine Liturgy. The proceeds will be used to help them attend the newly scheduled Youth Rally next year. Please help them with this sale by purchasing some haluski. They would appreciate it very much!

Holy Ghost, Northside

No Particular announcements this week

General Announcements (cont.)

DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS JOURNEY CONTINUES TODAY —The Great Fast Deanery Penitential Vespers is 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: (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 Penitential Prayer of St. Ephrem

May 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*).

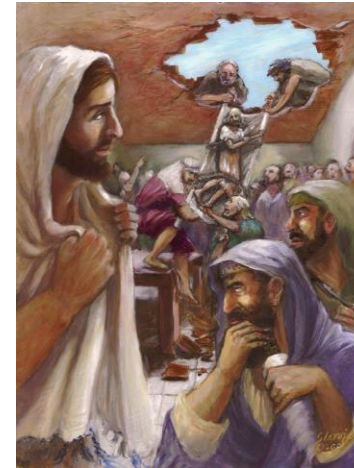
Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins, and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen (*Great Metany*).

THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

Second Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

The Meaning of Offering Individual & Collective Penance

Gospel of Palsied Man — Forgiveness of sins leads to a new life (*Mark 2: 1-12*)



Sinning is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually. However, **the sinful character of mankind is something which we all share in common and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each have to do our own fair share of the effort.** And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us. The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his palsied state. They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways bad enough, we can find ways to do so. Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the palsied man. Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

Why we Make 'Great Metanies' (Prostrations) Especially during the Great Fast

The importance of Great Metanies (Prostrations), is far more spiritual than physical.



In bending our knees, we assume an **attitude of humility** before the God to whom we offer our prayer. Kneeling, then touching our forehead to the ground, **we acknowledge our sinfulness**; we create a living image of our fall into sin. Our very posture represents a confession of that state, a **calling to mind of our spiritual poverty**, of our susceptibility to passions of greed, lust, anger and malice. As we make our descent in body and in spirit, we confess as well the Name above every name, the Name that "upholds the universe," as the *Shepherd of Hermes* (an early Christian writing) expresses it, and upholds our personal world as well: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!"

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 8	.....	II Deanery Penitential Vespers at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne @ 4:00 p.m. Clocks SPRING AHEAD ONE HOUR.
Mar 9	.....	Bible Study: Session II: "The Covenants with Noah & Moses" @ 7:00 p.m.
March 11	.....	III LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT. Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn
March 13	.....	III LENTEN FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — NO MEAT. Pirohi Sales.
March 14	.....	3 rd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
March 15	.....	III Deanery Penitential Vespers at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Braddock @ 4:00 p.m
Mar 16	.....	Bible Study: Session III: "The Mosaic Covenant @ 7:00 p.m.
March 18	.....	IV LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT. Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn
March 20	.....	IV LENTEN FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — NO MEAT. Pirohi Sales.
March 21	.....	4 th Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

Saints of the Week

The 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

They were martyred in 320 ad near the city of Sebaste, in Lesser Armenia (present-day Sivas in Turkey), victims of the persecutions of Emperor Licinius, who after 316 ad,



persecuted the Christians of the East. The earliest account of their existence and martyrdom is given by Bishop Basil of Caesarea (370–379) in a homily he delivered on their feast day. The Feast of the Forty Martyrs is thus older than Basil himself, who eulogized them only fifty or sixty years after their deaths. According to Basil, forty soldiers who had openly confessed themselves Christians were condemned by the prefect to be exposed naked upon a frozen pond near Sebastes on a bitterly cold night, that they might freeze to death. Among the confessors, one yielded and, leaving his companions, sought the warm baths near the lake which had been prepared for any who might prove inconstant. One of the guards, Aglaius, was set to keep watch over the martyrs and beheld at this

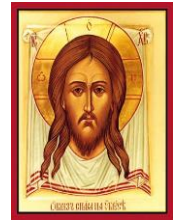
moment a supernatural brilliancy overshadowing them. He at once proclaimed himself a Christian, threw off his garments, and joined the remaining thirty-nine. Thus, the number of forty remained complete. At daybreak, the stiffened bodies of the confessors, which still showed signs of life, were burned and the ashes cast into a river. Christians, however, collected the precious remains, and the relics were distributed throughout many cities; in this way, veneration of the Forty Martyrs became widespread, and numerous churches were erected in their honor.

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

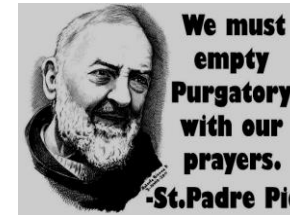
Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.

General Announcements

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!



ANOTHER WEEK 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). This Third All Souls Commemoration 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 that they may be included in the remaining special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. This is a traditional day to offer a Spiritual Work of Mercy. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.

GREAT FAST ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASSES CONTINUE TOMORROW

Seminarians, Luke Iyengar & Christopher Dave, are offering these special classes on



Monday's during the Great Fast. The subject will be from Sacred Scripture. If you are interested, please feel free to join us. 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: (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.

AREA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH OFFER LENTEN KITCHEN

— St. Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall will be offering a Lenten Kitchen: **from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every Lenten Friday through April 3.** There will be no Lenten Kitchen on Holy and Great Friday! The Menu includes: Soup, pirohi, noodle Haluski, baked fish dinner or fried fish (sandwiches or dinners) shrimp dinner and a bake sale. Dine in or take out. Please call (412) 461-9271 for take outs.

