

Parish Offerings – 2nd Sunday of Great Fast — Mar. 8, 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 (\$1,657.75) YP (\$12)	\$1,669.75
Holy Days	38.00
Initial (\$5) Coffee Social (\$14)	19.00
Votive Candles	147.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,874.25

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$500.00
Holy Days	5.00
Easter Flowers (\$30) B.C.W. (\$28)	58.00
Votive Candles	23.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$586.00

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (42); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (74); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy

III Lenten: Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (19); Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (4)

LOVE LIFE
LIVE LENT
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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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 THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

CROSS-VERNERATION SUNDAY — March 15, 2020



Lent Is Good For
the Christian

"Yet even now,"
declares the Lord,
"return to me with all
your heart."
Joel 2:12



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 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 15, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 11



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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..

Mon, Mar. 16 (22) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

Tue, Mar 17 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Annamae Smyda MaryEllen & John Oslick
(40th day of passing)

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed. Mar 18 (24) 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 19 (25) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Yakelis (2nd ann of pass 3/24) Anonymous

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri, Mar 20 (26) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours



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

4th UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar 21 (27) 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of St. John Climacus — Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Nicholas Nazak (27th ann. of passing 3/3) Wife: Rose & Family

ST. JOHN CLIMASCUS SUNDAY

4th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN, Mar 22 (28) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Joseph R. Shamonsky Lecci Family

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Cathedral, Munhall

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 15 – MARTHA LUCAS; Mar 16 – Elizabeth Poznak; Mar 17 – Matthew Harsh; Mar 20 – Andrew Sclight; Mar 21 – Kenneth Krempasky.

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, Irene Muha, Irene Palahunik, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, 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, PA 15237): TAMARA HARDING.

WEXFORD HOUSE NURSING CTR. (9850 Old Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090): OLGA MANFREDO.

UPMC MERCY HEALTH CENTER (1515 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219): Michael Harsh.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why is there so much sex going on with teens today? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The number one reason why teens are having more premarital sex today is because Satan is working overtime (1 Peter 5:8). It is important to remember that any sinful act is ultimately prompted by the workings of Satan, who desires that we lose our soul (Rom. 7:15-25). A second reason is the invention of artificial birth control. It misleads people to thinking they need not fear unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease. The third factor is the decline in morals throughout society. Bad sequences of premarital sex are almost never portrayed on television. TV shows never seem to show broken hearts, pregnancy, suffering of hemorrhages from abortions, sexually transmitted disease, etc. If you are interested read "If You Love Me" by Jason Evert; "Why Wait" by Josh McDowell & Dick Day

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Mar. 15, 2020 — Mar. 21, 2020

(MR) In memory of Octavia & Michaeline Balandiat

offered by Alice & Anna May Sejka

(NS) In memory of Fr. Michael G. Pipik & Mary Hrivnak

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

offered by Fr. Firko

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

REMAINING DATES FOR THE PIROHI PROJECT — Remaining Friday dates: **Mar. 20, 27 & Apr. 3.** Starting prep and phone-in order dates: Mar.. 18 (morning) & Mar.



19 (evening). Due to the Corona Virus there may be a possibility that the large 90 dozen Pirohi order may be cancelled. We're still waiting word.. April 3 will be the busiest day; pinchers and kitchen help will be needed. *Just a reminder that there will be*

NO Great (Good) Friday Sales. We would appreciate more volunteers to keep us ahead with the demand!

Holy Ghost, Northside

No Particular announcements this week

General Announcements (cont.)

STILL AWAITING FINANCIAL FIGURES FROM CHANCERY — Already by this time, the general 2019 financial state would have been presented. Due to a change of personnel at the chancery, it is taking extra time. They are working diligently to get them to the parishes A.S.A.P. We appreciate your patience!

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: (3) **March 15 – SS. Peter & Paul Church, Braddock — Homilist: 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*).

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

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

Third Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Cross-Veneration Sunday: We Bow to Your Cross, O Master"

(Mark 8: 34 – 9:1)

On the Third Sunday of The Great Fast, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.



What Does It Mean to take Up the Cross Daily?

What does this mean, "take up a cross"? It means you will bear with whatever is troublesome, and in this very act you will be following Christ. When you begin to follow Christ according to His teaching and precepts, you will find many people contradicting you and standing in your way, many who will not only deride you but even persecute you. Moreover, this is true, not only of pagans who are outside the church, but also of those who seem to be in it visibly.... Although they glory in merely the title of Christian, they continually persecute faithful Christians. Such belong to the members of the church in the same way that bad blood is in the body. Therefore, if you wish to follow Christ, do not delay in carrying His cross; tolerate sinners, but do not yield to them. Do not let the false happiness of the wicked corrupt you. You do well to despise all things for the sake of Christ, in order that you may be fit for his companionship. *St. Caesarius of Arles sermons 159.5.*



Pope Teaches Byzantine Form of the "Sign of the Cross"

At the beginning of the 10th century, Pope Leo IV, instructed his clergy to hold their fingers in the proper manner when blessing the Sacred Gifts, with two fingers outstretched, and the thumb hidden behind, between them, by which the Trinity is symbolized. He instructed that the people of the Faith should imitate the example of the Priests. By means of the Sign of the Cross to express the elements of our Faith. The thumb and first two fingers joined together indicate belief in the Three Divine Persons as One God. The two remaining fingers lying in the palm of the hand to signify the Divine and the Human natures of



Christ united in His One Person -Pope Leo IV (928 a.d.)

Calendar of Upcoming Events Including Holy Week & Easter

March 15 III Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Braddock, PA @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.

March 16 Bible Study: Session III: *"The Mosaic Covenant @ 7:00 p.m.*

March 18 Week IV: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

March 20 Week IV: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ reading of the Hramoty. Pirohi Project.

March 21 4th Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

March 22 IV Deanery Penitential Vespers: St. John Cathedral, Munhall @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.

March 23 Bible Study: Session IV: *"The Davidic Covenant & the Prophets @ 7:00 p.m.*

March 24 Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m.

March 25 Feast of the Annunciation — Wednesday (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.

March 27 Week V: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ chanting of the Akathistos Hymn. Pirohi Sales.

March 28 .. Akathistos Saturday imploring aid of the Theotokos in our ascetical practices (MR) 9:00 a.m.

March 29..... Final Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.

March 30 Bible Study: Session V: *"The New Covenant in Christ @ 7:00 p.m.*

April 1 Week VI: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

April 3.....The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast. & Final Day of Pirohi Sales. Week VI: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

April 4 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.

April 5 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows. ... Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (April 6 through April 11)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. (NS) Confessions @ 6:15 a.m.

Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Thursday ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Friday . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

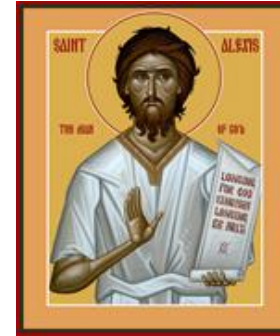
Great & Holy Sat. (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m. — (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — **(MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.**

APRIL 12 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY (MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

Saint of the Week

Saint Alexis, Man of God – March 17

St. Alexis was born at Rome into the family of the pious and poverty-loving Euphemianus and Aglais. At six years of age the child began to read and successfully studied the mundane sciences, but it was with particular diligence that he read Holy Scripture.

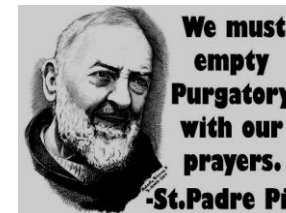


When he was a young man, he began to imitate his parents: he fasted strictly, distributed alms and beneath his fine clothing he secretly wore a hair shirt. He desired to leave the world and serve God. His parents, however, had arranged for Alexis to marry a beautiful and virtuous bride. On his wedding night, Alexis gave her his ring and his belt (which were very valuable) and said, "Keep these things, Beloved, and may the Lord be with us until His grace provides us with something better." Secretly leaving his home, he boarded a ship sailing for Mesopotamia. Arriving in the city of Edessa, where the Icon of the Lord "Not-made-by-Hands" (August 16) was preserved, Alexis sold everything that he had, distributed the money to

the poor and began to live near the church of the Most Holy Theotokos under a portico. The saint used a portion of the alms he received to buy bread and water, and he distributed the rest to the aged and infirm. Each Sunday he received the Holy Mysteries. His body was withered by fasting, his comeliness vanished, his stature diminished. The saint recognized them and gave thanks to the Lord that he received alms from his own servants. On the day of St Alexis' death in 411, Archbishop Innocent (402-417) was serving the Divine Liturgy in the presence of the emperor Honorius (395-423). During the services a Voice was heard from the altar: "Seek the Man of God in the house of Euphemianus." All hastened there, but the saint was already dead. His face shone like the face of an angel. They placed the saint's body on a cot, covered with costly coverings. They placed his mortal remains in the center of the city and then buried him in St. Boniface Church. A fragrant myrrh began to flow from the holy relics, bestowing healing upon the sick. His relics were uncovered in the year 1216.

General Announcements

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. The 5th and Final All Souls Commemoration is May 30. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.