

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Zacchaeus – January 17, 2021

“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 (\$1,753) YP (\$12)	\$1,765.00
Holy Days (\$60) Christmas 2020 (\$10)	70.00
Initial (\$30) BCW (\$112)	142.00
Votive Candles	100.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,077.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$585.00
Holy Days (\$1) Initial (\$5)	6.00
Votive Candles	37.00
	<hr/>
	\$628.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (18);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (49); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell
Supervisor, CFSP
III Serving Yours Since 1953

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



DESIGNS BY NANCY

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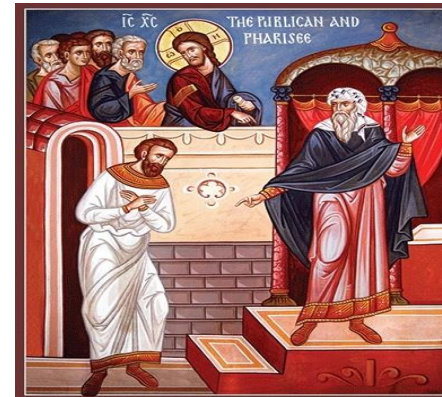
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — January 24, 2021



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 E. 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
Holy Day (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 a.m.; (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 Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: c-rsmedia.org.

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).

January 24, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 4



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

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN., Jan 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Dorothy (Kost) Hanasik Niece: Shirley Marks

Mon., Jan 25 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Sharon Ann Maletz Parents: Martha & Bob Maletz

Tue., Jan 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Hrebenak Dgtr: Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar
(35th ann of passing)

Wed., Jan 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Kodik Anonymous
(2nd ann of passing 1/11)

Thrs., Jan 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna Jan Herczak



NO SIMPLE ABSTINENCE OR EQUIVALENT PENANCE DURING PUBLICAN & PHARISEE WEEK.

This is to remind us that we are NOT to take pride in the fact that this is all we do to seek God's favor.

Traditionally, this is one of five and/or sometimes 6 times throughout the year that this occurs.

Fri., Jan 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Richard F. Zula (birthday 1/9) Judy & Ray Haski

Anticipated Divine Liturgy for Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs — Simple Holy Day

6:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs — Simple Holy Day

Sat., Jan 30 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Robert D. Hartnett (40th day of passing 1/20) Mary Ann & Steve Pulka



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN., Jan 31 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mosko Family Julia Ann & George F. Mosko
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Evelyn (Sosnak) Vento Anonymous
(40th day of passing 1/11)



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 name and date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Jan 24 — Aliana Usouski, Richard Cifrutlak; **Jan 26** — Dolores Hudanick; **Jan 29** — Gary Schelling.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Helen Best, Richard Billy, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrutlak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Shirley Kotik, OLGA MANFREDO, Joseph Mitro, Irene Muha, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Anna May Sejka, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.

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, # 230, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Helen Hopey.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Can cremains be divided into multiple "packets" for burial in multiple sites? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** No. Cremains must be kept together and committed in their entirety to an appropriate place of burial. A recent instruction from the Vatican on the issues surrounding cremation states: The ashes may not be divided among various family members and due respect must be maintained regarding the circumstances of such a conservation. In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects. These courses of action cannot be legitimized by an appeal to the sanitary, social, or economic motives that may have occasioned the choice of cremation (Instruction Ad Resurgendum Cum Christo 6-7).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jan. 24 — Jan 30, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Margaret & George Kurtanich** (wed ann)

offered by Children

(NS): **In memory of Maryjane & Michael Barbush**

(MR) Available for 2021

offered by Anonymous

(NS) Available for 2021



General Announcements

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!

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

FEW 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.



Remembering all the Departed on 5 Universal All-Souls Saturdays

The Byzantine Catholic Church has, since the ninth century, established a special day of prayer for the departed known as All Souls Saturday. There is a "universal commemoration" and prayer for "all the souls departed in the faith," fittingly then, in English, we call these Saturdays – All Souls Saturdays. **In the Byzantine Liturgical Year there are five All Souls Saturdays namely, Meat Fare Saturday, the Second, Third and Fourth Saturdays of The Great Fast, and the Saturday before Pentecost.** The first commemoration prior to the Lenten Season begins with Meat-Fare Saturday as a special day of prayer for the deceased. It can be traced down to the sixth and seventh century. On Meat-Fare Sunday we liturgically commemorate the Terrible Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46). Therefore, on the previous day, we, in our charity, intercede with the merciful Judge for the deceased. In the Byzantine Church, official lists of the deceased members of individual families are submitted to the pastor. These were called Hramoty, from meaning a written letter or document. The list of the deceased members of a family made in booklet form was used at the services for the deceased. The custom of announcing the names of the deceased during the liturgical services, as stated above, can be traced back to the first centuries of Christianity. Already in the fourth century, the practice was strongly defended by St. Epiphanius (+403) as a "firmly established tradition" in the Church. He writes: Concerning the ritual of reading the names of the deceased, what can be more useful or suitable; what can be more worthy of admiration? (Panarios 75, 8). *Following the Friday, Feb. 5th Holy Day Divine Liturgy (NS) @ 6:00 p.m. & (MR) following the Divine Liturgy on Saturday Feb 6th @ 9:00 a.m.*



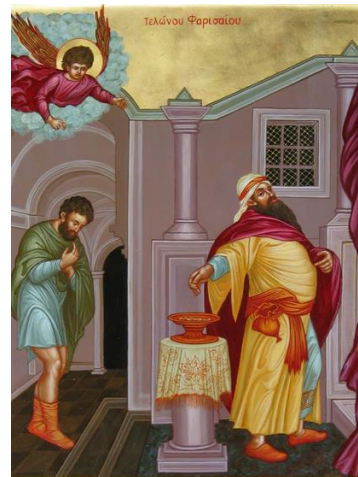
Please remember to pick up your envelopes and
Calendar located in the (MR) Church basement; (NS) Narthex

Today's Gospel Meditation

The 2nd of Five Sundays Prior to The Great Fast

HUMILITY in the Presence of God & Neighbor

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 **Publican** 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.

SIMPLE ABSTINENCE IS MITIGATED THIS WEEK

The Church looks upon every Friday as a special day of remembrance of Our Lord's salvific death upon the Precious Cross. Fasting/Abstinence are a reminder that we must be



humbly grateful to Jesus for dying for our sins. However, there are certain Fridays throughout the liturgical life that we put aside this penitential character for other didactical expressions. For example, this **Friday following the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee, simple abstinence is mitigated so that we focus on the fact that abstinence is not an end in itself.** Christ is our end and He is the only One Who can save us. We cannot save ourselves even if we were to fast every day! For we who are used to abstaining from meat or doing an equivalent penance each Friday, this is difficult, but necessary to keep us humble and to focus on the value of what fasting and abstinence truly accomplish. It then aids in strengthening us at the appropriate times when we are called to its practice.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 25	.....Final Day of the Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
January 29	..... Vigil of the Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs: (NS); 6:00 p.m..
January 30	Traditionally, Simple Abstinence is abrogated on Friday following the week of the Publican & Pharisee. Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs (MR) 9:00 a.m.
February 2	.....Encounter of the Lord D.L. w/Sanctification of Candles (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS). 6:00 p.m.
February 5	..... NS 1 st All Souls Saturday Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.
February 6	..... MR 1 st All Souls Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
February 7	..... NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. 1 st Quarterly Meeting of the GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge (MR) @ 2:00 p.m.
February 13	..... MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
February 14	..... (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
February 15	..... 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 of Crete with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.
February 17	.....PURE WEDNESDAY: (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 19	.....PURE FRIDAY: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK — Simple Holy Day THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS — January 30

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 Euchite (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.



General Announcements

EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY CONCLUDES MONDAY — Each year from January 18-25, Christians unite to pray in the same sentiments that Jesus prayed to the Father: “That all may be one ... so that the world may believe.” (John 17:21). This year’s theme is: “**Abide in my love You shall bear much fruit**” (John 15:1-17) As Catholics who have the fullness of the faith, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Pray each day: “**O Almighty and Merciful God, You willed that the different nations should become one people**



through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. In this may Your name be glorified Father, Son (+), and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.”

PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS — The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Canan Program for the Archeparchy once each year. This year’s two-part Pre-Canan Program is **March 13 and 20. Due to the Pandemic, this will more than likely be a virtual presentation.** Couples planning to marry this year **must** fulfill both parts of these two Saturday sessions. The program addresses topics pertinent to couples’ future lifestyle and concludes on the second Saturday with Presentation of Certificates. Sessions will discuss the following topics: communication, sexuality and relationships, Byzantine spirituality and prayer, natural family planning, finances and budgeting. experiences of marriage and theology of marriage/Crowning Ceremony. **For information concerning registration, fees, etc. go to archpitt.org –Office of Religious Education link.**



SUBMIT PARISH REGISTRATION CARD — The first item in your new contribution envelope box is a registration card. If you have not already submitted it, please take a few moments to complete it and return it to the church office. This basic information is very important in updating your information with the church. Please be sure that it includes your recent address, phone number, and also email address (if you have one). If you **DO NOT** wish your information to be given to a person requesting it, please indicate **PRIVATE INFORMATION**. If the information is the same as last year’s, just submit the card and write **SAME INFORMATION**. Many times, the Church tries to contact a parishioner, but the information had not been updated. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.



RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION — During this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic, our parishes have been using wooden disposable spoons per each communicant. We have been careful in this manner so that all who worthily approach will be kept safe. When receiving Our Eucharistic Lord Jesus, please tilt you head back slightly, open your mouth wide (as if you were at the dentist’s office. Please **DO NOT LIP or CHOMP DOWN** on the spoon. **OPEN MOUTH WIDE.** The wooden spoons have a tendency of retaining some small Eucharistic Particles which may fall from the spoon when not received properly. Your consideration will be greatly appreciated.

