

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Cheese-Fare — February 14, 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 (\$1,394.08) YP (\$8)	\$1,402.08
Holy Days	150.00
Special Donation (In memory of + Mark Cifrulak)	100.00
Votive Candles (\$93) Initial (\$5)	98.08
	<hr/>
	\$1,750.08

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$638.00
Holy Days (\$25) Christmas 2020 (\$100)	125.00
Improvement (\$5) BCW (\$14)	19.00
Votive Candles	15.00
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	\$797.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (37); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (85); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (15)

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

(Winter Sleet Storm) Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (2); (NS) 6:00 pm (1)

Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (16); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (N/A)



THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT



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
III Serving Yours Since 1953

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Matthew 6:13

DESIGNS BY NANCY
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GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

NWPL 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

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 Office

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
The Triumph of True Worship — February 21, 2021



2020 – Year of St. Joseph – 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.
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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 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!

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

MARK THE DATES: PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME — It has been decided by a core-group of volunteers that since many telephone inquiries have been received for Pirohi, we will attempt sales for Friday's during the Great Fast Season. In this time of the Covid-19 situation, we will be directing our Project according to local county guidelines. Masks **MUST** be worn, physical distancing will be applied, frequent washing of hands, etc. We are marching forward with this six-week project. Since we will be discerning week by week, here are the **tentative Friday sale dates: Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12, 19, & 26.** We are going to need Pirohi-pinchers. We would appreciate more volunteers to keep us ahead with the demand! Please sign the order-list located at the entrance of the Church. Phone orders only will be taken on Wednesdays prior to the sale (412) 331-5155 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. There will be NO EAT-INS or WALK-INS. Also, to our Volunteers & Customers, if you are not feeling ill, please stay home or provide a healthy individual to stand in your place. Thank you for your concern and consideration.



YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES CANDY RAISING PROJECT — Every two years our Youth Group attends the Metropolitan Byzantine Rally. It is a wonderful chance for our youth to meet other Byzantine Catholics from across the country. In 2021 we are hoping to send 7 teens and 2 chaperones to Mt. St. Mary's University in Maryland. In order to defray the cost, the Holy Ghost Youth Group continues a virtual fundraiser from Sarris Candies. The fundraiser is in effect now and continues until March 29. This is a contactless fundraiser and all purchases will be shipped directly to the buyer with a \$5 packaging charge per order.. You can purchase anything from the company and we will receive 25% of the sale. Just follow these steps and candy will be on the way:



FUNDRAISING This is a contactless fundraiser and all purchases will be shipped directly to the buyer with a \$5 packaging charge per order.. You can purchase anything from the company and we will receive 25% of the sale. Just follow these steps and candy will be on the way:

1. Go to sarriscandiesfundraising.com
2. Go to the "fundraising" tab.
3. Our group code is 10-3617.
4. You do not have to put in a teen's name unless you want to.
5. Shop! — Thank you so much for your help! Holy Ghost Byzan-Teen Youth Group

Northside

LEAKING BOILER PIPES TO BE ADDRESSED THIS WEEK — Matt Merz Plumbing, North Hills, has scheduled an appointment with us to repair another section of heating-pipes beneath the church. A few months ago, they replaced a corroded section of line pipe that had also been leaking hot water. Please remember our Church in prayer that it may not be a major project!

McKEES ROCKS HOSTING THIS YEAR'S PENITENTIAL VESPERS — Each year our Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery hosts 5 weekly Penitential Vespers at different parish sites within the Deanery. It was then followed by a meatless luncheon. However, with this year's Covid-19 Pandemic, and the extra precautions that would have to be implemented, this liturgical activity has been cancelled. Our MR-Holy Ghost Church will continue the tradition **each Sunday of the Great Fast @ 3:00 p.m.** for our members, and those who wish to join us. There will be **no social** following. As with all our liturgical services, they will be televised over our Youtube.com internet. Please consider joining us by taking the proper precautions with face masks and physical distancing. There is plenty of room to separate yourselves from each other. **This year's prayer-theme will be the "vanquishing the coronavirus"**. Please consider joining us if you do not have a health impediment. A special guest cantor will lead us each Sunday afternoon.



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.

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO GO TO THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFESSION,
WHERE YOU
WILL MEET
JESUS WHO
FORGIVES YOU.**

Pope Francis



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 Metania*).
Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love (*Great Metania*).

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 Metania*).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Commencement of Pirohi Sales — Phone in orders on previous Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nan
 February 21 Penitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.
 February 24 .. II **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 February 26 II **LENTEN FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty
 February 27 2nd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
 February 28 Penitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.
 March 3 — III **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — **NO MEAT.**
 March 5 III **LENTEN FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty
 March 6 3rd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

Saint of the Week — February 23

Bishop-Martyr Polycarp of Smyrna

Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, who was “fruitful in every good work” (Col. 1:10), was born in the first century, and lived in Smyrna in Asia Minor. He was orphaned at an early age, but at the direction of an angel, he was raised by the pious widow Kallista. After the death of his adoptive mother, Polycarp gave away his possessions and began to lead a chaste life, caring for the sick and the infirm. He was very fond of and close to St Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna (February 6). He ordained Polycarp as deacon, entrusting to him to preach the Word of God in church. He also ordained him to the holy priesthood. The holy Apostle John the Theologian was still alive at this time. St Polycarp was especially close to St John, and sometimes



accompanied him on his apostolic journeys. Shortly before his death, St Bucolus expressed his wish that Polycarp be made Bishop of Smyrna. When St Polycarp was consecrated as a bishop, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him. St Polycarp guided his flock with apostolic zeal, and he was also greatly loved by the clergy. St Ignatius the God-Bearer of Antioch (December 20) also had a high regard for him. Setting out for Rome where execution awaited him, he wrote to St Polycarp, “This age is in need of you if it is to reach God, just as pilots need winds, and as a storm-tossed sailor needs a port.” The emperor Marcus Aurelius (161-180) came to the Roman throne and started up a most fierce persecution against Christians. The pagans demanded that the judge search for St Polycarp, “the father of all the Christians” and “the seducer of all Asia.” During this time St Polycarp, at the persistent urging of his flock, stayed in a small village not far from Smyrna. When the soldiers came for him, he went out to them and invited them in to eat. He asked for time to pray, in order to prepare himself for martyrdom. His suffering and death are recorded in the “Epistle of the Christians of the Church of Smyrna to the Other Churches,” one of the most ancient memorials of Christian literature. Having been brought to trial, St Polycarp firmly confessed his faith in Christ, and was condemned to be burned alive. The executioners wanted to nail him to a post, but he declared that God would give him the strength to endure the flames, so they could merely tie him with ropes. The flames encircled the saint but did not touch him, coming together over his head in the shape of a vault. Seeing that the fire did him no harm, the pagans stabbed him with a dagger. So much blood flowed from this wound that it extinguished the flames. The body of the Bishop-Martyr Polycarp was then cremated. The Christians of Smyrna reverently gathered up what remained of his holy relics, and each year they celebrated the day of his martyrdom.

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*

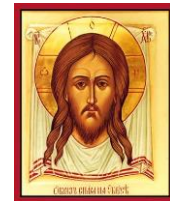


Fathers explained that the veneration of icons, theologically, was based on the mystery of incarnation, since in the person of Jesus Christ we received revelation not only of the "Word of God" (Jn. 1:1-14), but also of the "Image of God," as attested by St. Paul saying that Jesus is the "image (eikon) of the unseen God." (Col.1:15) Jesus Himself testified: "To have seen Me is to have seen the Father!" (Jn. 14:9).

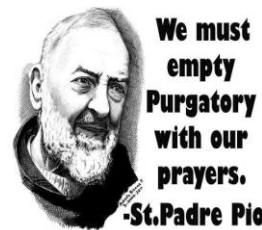
General Announcements

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!



CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATIONS —



We must empty Purgatory with our prayers.

-St. Padre Pio

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 remaining All-Souls Saturdays (Feb. 27, March 6, 13 & May 22). You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.