

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Meat-Fare — February 7, 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 (\$3,014) YP (\$15)	\$3,029.00
Holy Days (\$183) YP (\$2)	185.00
Initial (\$20) YP (\$12) BCW (\$42)	74.00
Votive Candles	179.50
	\$3,467.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$402.00
Holy Days	11.00
Improvement (\$80) BCW (\$28)	108.00
Votive Candles	49.00
	\$570.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (39);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (39); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (19)



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

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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

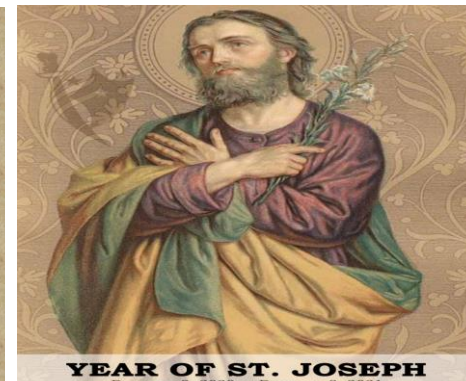
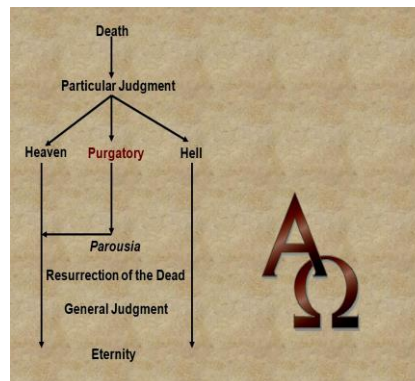
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 14, 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 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!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

When the Highest 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).

February 14, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 7



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

Sunday of Cheese-Fare

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — Expulsion from Paradise

SUN., Feb 14 9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving Norma & Peter Kacsur
(65th Wedding Ann 2/17)

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

2:00 p.m. (MR) Forgiveness Vespers w/ anointing of Oil of Gladness: Initiating The Great Fast Season.

BEGINNING THE HOLY & GREAT 40 DAYS FAST

Washington's Birthday Observed — Federal Holiday — NO MAIL/BANKING

REQUIRED Day of STRICT ABSTINENCE — NO MEAT OR DAIRY PRODUCTS PERMITTED — The

Holy Mystery of the Eucharist will be distributed at these two Penitential Services


PURE MON, Feb 15, (1) 9:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours

 6:00 p.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies

PURE TUE, Feb 16 (2) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Stempkowski Christine & Al Barnash

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE WED, Feb 17 (3) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours


 6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

PURE THRS, Feb 18 (4) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Yakelis (3rd ann of pass 3/24) Anonymous

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE FRI, Feb 19 (5) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

 6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Commemoration of the Miracle of the Holy Great-Martyr Theodore Tyro

PURE SAT, Feb 20 (6) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Triumph of True Worship — First Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Julianna + John Bordas Dgtr: Dolores & Steve Kosko

THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP

1st Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN, Feb 21 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret Kurtanich (birthday) Children

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen Meaders Family

3:00 p.m. Penitential Vespers for the Second Week of the Great Fast

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

Feb 15 — Kurt Marks, PAUL BODNARCHUK; **Feb 16** — James Shelling; **Feb 17** — Josuha Alman, Theodore Babin, Linda Chomko, Julia Kutchmark; **Feb 20** — Monica Lemesh, John Marks; **Feb 26** — ALICE SLAGLE.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuonas, Helen Best, Richard Billy, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, 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. Do our beloved animal companions go to heaven when they die and will we see them again in heaven? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Michelle Arnold: Having had a beloved pet that also had to be put to sleep, I know how difficult a pet's death can be. Unlike humans, whose souls are spirit and thus survive death, animal souls are material. That means that animals cease to exist when they die. This does not mean, however, that God cannot recreate the animal souls. Perhaps, at the end of time, when the heavens and the earth are made new (CCC 1046-1047), God will create anew the animals who were our beloved companions in this life, not because he has to but as a gift to us. Because animals do not have spiritual souls, they do not enjoy the Beatific Vision, but, perhaps, because Christ is both God and man, they may be able to interact with God made man even though they do not share in the spiritual joy reserved for spiritual creatures such as angels and saints. All of this is speculation, of course, but it is something for which we may hope.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Feb. 14— Feb. 20, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Andrew Drukalsky (birthday 1/9)**

offered by Niece: Eileen & Kevin Finnegan

(NS): **In memory of Madelyn Harding**

(MR) Few available for 2021

offered by Tamara Harding

(NS) Available for 2021



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC MEETING — At Saturday, February 13, 2021 @



1:00 p.m. PAC/FAC Meeting, discussion on the following topics were presented (1) Review of the 2020 General Financial Statement; Report will appear in the Sunday February 21st S.O.T.; (2) Rest Rooms Project by Century Interior, Inc., North Hills continues to place us on hold due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Hopefully, it will commence soon; and (3) Our local Northwest

Pittsburgh Lodge has purchased new green ribbon for mark physical distancing between the Church pews. We are grateful for their members who placed them this past week.

HALUSKY SALE IS NOW A GO — Following a discussion with the members of the Pirohi Project, they have concurred that there are enough volunteers to work the cabbage and noodles project this week. We will continue to take orders for **Pure Friday, February 19, 2021**. Please pass the word so that outsiders may know. The price is \$7.00 per container. Order form in the side vestibule.

YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES CANDY RAISING PROJECT — Following Every two years our Youth Group attends the ByzANTEEN 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 is holding a virtual



fundraiser from Sarris Candies. The fundraiser begins 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:

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

SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC MEETING — At last Sunday's PAC/FAC Meeting,

February 7, 2021, discussion on the following topics were presented (1) Review of the 2020 General Financial Statement; Report will appear in the Sunday, February 21st S.O.T.; (2) Boiler pipes deteriorating under the Church causing the loss of hot water from the boiler system. Matt Mertz Plumbing, North Hills has been contacted and will investigate the problem. They also had to replace Rectory Boiler pipes that caused leaking between the two floors; and (3) a section of the Church Roof tile needs to be replaced as soon as the weather improves..



PLEASE REVISED LAST WEEK'S ATTACHED GREAT FAST CALENDAR — The Great Fast Calendar that appeared as a supplement in last week's S.O.T. had an error in regards to the Feast of the Annunciation. The correct day of the Feast is Thursday, March 25 not the 22. Hope that this calendar will assist you!

TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — Beginning the Penitential Journey with the right Attitude & Disposition (Matthew 6: 14-21)

What do we mean by "Cheese-fare" and to "Give Up?"

Cheese-fare Sunday indicates a farewell to dairy products just as last week's Meat-



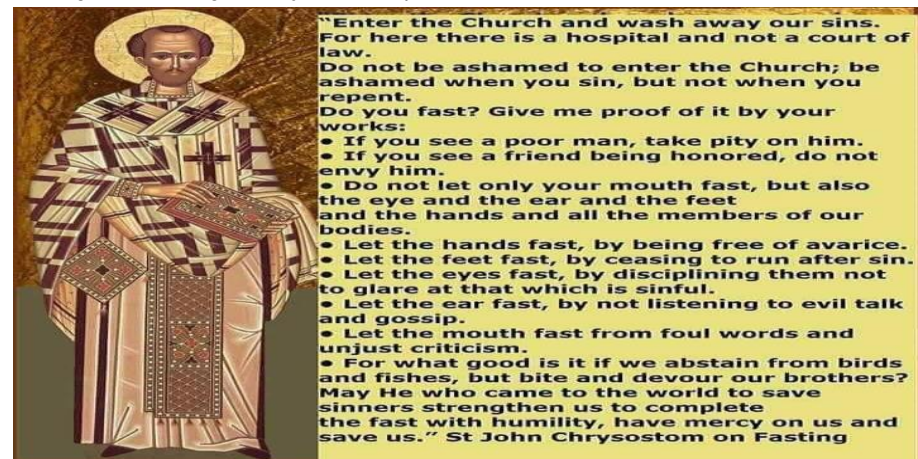
Fare said farewell to meat products until Resurrection Sunday. As in the early Christian Church dairy products and meat were no longer eaten throughout The Great Fast Season and throughout Holy Week. Although mandatory Church laws have been abrogated as to its obligatory nature, it still encourages us to do penance on the days prescribed (Pure Monday & Great Friday); and **NO MEAT** on

Wednesdays and Fridays. Most importantly, we are all called to Fast from SIN and GIVE UP negativity by PUTTING ON virtue and being positive. Today, the Church invokes us to remember what participation in sin did — expelling Adam and Eve from Paradise. It will also keep us from entering the heavenly kingdom.

Our Holy Father's General Audience

Vatican City State on "PRAYER" — February 10, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters: in our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now consider how our prayerful dialogue with God is meant to embrace the events of each day, in our homes, daily chores or work. All our thoughts and activities should be a part of our daily conversation with the Lord. The Catechism teaches that "it is in the present that we encounter God, not yesterday or tomorrow, but today" (No. 2659). There is no aspect of our everyday lives, however mundane, that cannot be offered in prayer to God and become an occasion of deeper union with him. As we come to know Christ more intimately in prayer, our hearts are expanded to embrace in love and solidarity all those around us, above all the poor, the unhappy and those in need. Blaise Pascal once observed that human beings are so frail that even a drop of water can destroy us (cf. Thoughts, No. 347). Yet in our fragility, prayer is a mark of our supreme grandeur, for prayer can work miracles in our world, transform lives and history, and serve the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace.



"Enter the Church and wash away our sins. For here there is a hospital and not a court of law.
 Do not be ashamed to enter the Church; be ashamed when you sin, but not when you repent.
 Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works:
 • If you see a poor man, take pity on him.
 • If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him.
 • Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of our bodies.
 • Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice.
 • Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin.
 • Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful.
 • Let the ear fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip.
 • Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism.
 • For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers? May He who came to the world to save sinners strengthen us to complete the fast with humility, have mercy on us and save us." St John Chrysostom on Fasting

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 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) 1st & 3rd 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) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 February 19 **PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR); (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 Commencement of Pirohi Sales — Phone in orders on previous Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
 February 21 Penitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.
 February 24 **LENTE 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 **LENTE 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.

Saint of the Week— February 17

The Holy & Great-Martyr Theodore Tyro

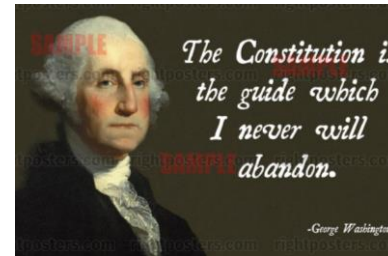
The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (Tyro) was a soldier in the city of Alasiu of the Pontine district (northeast province of Asia Minor, stretching along the coast of the Euxine, i.e., the Black Sea), under the command of a certain Brincus. They commanded him to offer sacrifice to idols. St Theodore firmly confessed his faith in Christ the Savior in a loud voice. The commander gave him several days to think it over, during which time St Theodore prayed. They charged him with setting a pagan temple on fire, and threw him into prison to be starved to death. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him there, comforting and encouraging him. Brought to the governor, St Theodore boldly and fearlessly confessed his faith, for which he was subjected to new torments and condemned to burning. The martyr Theodore climbed onto the fire without hesitation, and with prayer and gave up his holy soul to God. This occurred in about the year 306 under the Roman emperor Galerius (305-311). Unharmed by the fire, the body of St Theodore was buried in the city of

Euchaita, not far from Amasiu. His relics were afterwards transferred to Constantinople, to a church dedicated to him. His head is in Italy, in the city of Gaeto. Later on, fifty years after the death of St Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of Great Lent to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. St Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva). In memory of this occurrence, the Byzantine Catholic Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by St John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. **The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of the Great Fast was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397).**



General Announcements

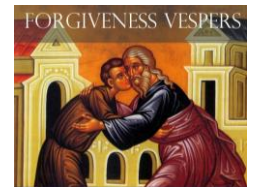
TIME MAGAZINE: THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' DAY



HOLIDAY — By Melissa Chan: Most Americans on Monday will mark the so-called Presidents' Day holiday ... but, contrary to popular belief, on a national level there is no such thing as Presidents' Day. The federal holiday is officially called "Washington's Birthday," and it celebrates George Washington, the country's first commander-in-chief. It has kept the name since its establishment as a legal holiday in 1879, and no Congress has ever

moved to rename it "Presidents' Day," according to the Center for Legislative Archives. (It's also not a "national holiday," as that concept doesn't really exist either; in the U.S., legal holidays must be established separately by the states and the federal government.) **George Washington and Martin Luther King Jr. are the only two Americans whose birthdays are federal holidays in the U.S.** Washington's birthday was observed every year as a federal holiday on Feb. 22 — his recognized date of birth — up until 1968, when **Congress passed a law to celebrate the first president on the third Monday in February instead.** The change was part of an effort to create more three-day weekends to spur "the spiritual and economic life of the nation," Congress noted, even though that meant the holiday could technically no longer be commemorated on Washington's actual birthday. Some individual states, however, have changed the name of the holiday as it affects state employees, choosing to call it the more general name in order to honor Washington's fellow February baby, Abraham Lincoln.

FORGIVENESS VESPERS TODAY — This afternoon **February 14, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.** in McKees Rocks, we will gather to bring in the Penitential Season of The Great Fast. Anointing with blessed oil will be administered to strengthen us on the Lenten Journey. Please set aside this time and join us as we embark in this season of penance.



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 with a meatless menu. 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.