

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of Prodigal Son — January 31, 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 (\$1,798) YP (\$13) .....	\$1,811.00
Holy Days (\$281) YP (\$2) Initial (\$22) YP (\$2) BCW (\$28) .....	335.00
Special Donation (In memory of + Lester Best) .....	25.00
Votive Candles .....	88.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,259.50

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$640.00
Holy Days .....	95.00
Utilities (\$37) Improvement (\$20) BCW (\$28) Initial (\$25) .....	110.00
Votive Candles (\$51.50) Eastern Europe (\$10) .....	61.50
	<hr/>
	\$906.50

**Church Attendance Last Week**

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (32); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (12)

Three Holy Hierarchs — (NS) 6:00 p.m. (8); (MR) 9:00 a.m. (8)

Encounter of the Lord — (MR) 8:50 a.m. (10); (NS) 5:50 a.m. (7)



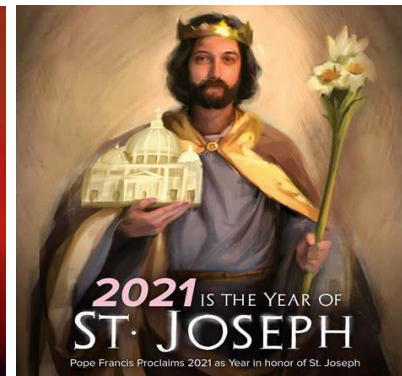
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 7, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com) then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream**

**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  
*Ill Serving Yours Since 1953*

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
235 McCartney Drive,  
Moon Township 15108  
Phone: (412) 580-1545  
[Nandce@aol.com](mailto:Nandce@aol.com)  
**Nancy C. Debranski**  
*Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts*

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.

**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 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](http://Rusyn.fm) at 3:30 pm. Archive:[c-rsmedia.org](http://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).

February 7, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 6



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

**Date**                      **Time**                      **Intention**                      **Requested By**

### Sunday of Meat-Fare

#### The 4<sup>th</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — The Terrible Judgement

**SUN., Feb 7**                      9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka                      Children  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop (7<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/19) Valeriano & Kallop Families

Mon, Feb 8                      \*\*\* 7:00 a.m. (MR) + Athena Vojtecky                      Family  
*Fr. Firko to attend a 10:00 a.m. Funeral in Warren, OH*

Tue, Feb. 9                      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Muska                      Gladys Muska  
*(8<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/8)*

Wed., Feb 10                      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Lester G. Best                      M/M Burt Cifrulak  
*(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing)*

Thrs, Feb 11                      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Patrick                      Nephews & Nieces

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINANCE** (no meat) or Equivalent Penance for World Peace & vanquishing of Covid-19

Fri, Feb 12                      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Susan + Michael Hubal, Sr.                      Hubal Family



#### Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics

Sat., Feb 13                      9:00 a.m. (NS) + John A. Conti                      Mom: Mary Ann

*Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Cheese-Fare – 5<sup>th</sup> & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday*

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr.                      Grandson: Mike Tomchak  
*(birthday 2/20)*



### Sunday of Cheese-Fare



#### The 5<sup>th</sup> & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — Expulsion from Paradise

**SUN., Feb 14**                      9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving                      Norma & Peter Kacsur  
*(Norma & Peter Kacsur's 65<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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 7 – THERESA FECIK; Feb 8 – Peggy McCusker; Feb 13 – Charles Sell.

### 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.** How do you prove that the Catholic faith is the 'correct' religion to believe in? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** A strong case for the Catholic faith is made by studying history. If you look at the extra-biblical writings of the early Christians, you will see that they taught Catholic doctrines. In fact, the Catholic Church was often referred to by name. The first recorded usage of the word "catholic" is found as early as 107 ad. A disciple of the Apostle John, St. Ignatius of Antioch, said: "Wherever the bishop appears, let the people be there, just as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the catholic church (Epistle to the Smyrnaeans, 8:2). The Catholic Church can trace its authority as the one true Church through its unbroken line of more than 260 popes from Francis back to St. Peter. All other Christian churches are offshoots of the Catholic Church. These churches were founded by mere men or women, not by Jesus, Who is God in the flesh.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**Feb. 7— Feb. 13, 2021**

(MR): **In memory of Irene & Alex Bilak, Jr.**

offered by Children: Leyte & Alex

(NS): **In memory of Esther M. Kallop**

(MR) Few available for 2021

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) Available for 2021



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

Advisory Council Meeting



**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING THIS WEEK** — The meeting will take place this **Saturday, February 13, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.** We will primarily present the 2020 Financial Statement of Income and Expenditures prior to publishing it to the parish on February 21. Members are reminded to wear masks. We will also implement physical distancing.

**HALUSKY SALE MAY BE PUT ON HOLD** — After publishing the announcement in last week's S.O.T., there was a concern that we may not have enough of volunteers for this project. We will continue to take orders for **Pure Friday, February 19, 2021.** If the project doesn't come together, those placing orders will be notified. The price is \$7.00 per container. Order form in the side vestibule.

## Northside

**BOILER PIPES NEED REPLACED** — For the past weeks, we were notified that there was a loss of water in the Church. Several leaks were found beneath the Church exuding water when the boiler system was activated. If you remember, we had the identical situation months ago thus resulting in the replacement of several feet of pipe. We are having a difficult time arranging attention to this problem. We are persisting and hope to have it remedied soon.

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING TODAY** — The meeting will take place following today's Divine Liturgy in the Church We will primarily present the 2020 Financial Statement of Income and Expenditures prior to publishing it to the parish on February 21. Members are reminded to wear masks. We will also implement physical distancing.

Advisory Council Meeting



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**FOUR REMAINING ALL-SOULS SATURDAYS** — Due to these unprecedented months of the Covid-19 Pandemic, many from both parishes have not renewed these special Saturdays for the remembrance of your dearly beloved. Please do so A.S.A.P. so that their immortal souls may spiritually benefit from the power of this liturgical prayer.



**SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS STILL REMAINING** — If you are interested in sponsoring a Sanctuary Lamp that continues to burn before the True Eucharistic Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ each week, please contact the Church office. This is a great gift in remembering your departed loved ones or perhaps expressing thanksgiving for favors received or simply requesting a special intention from Divine Providence.

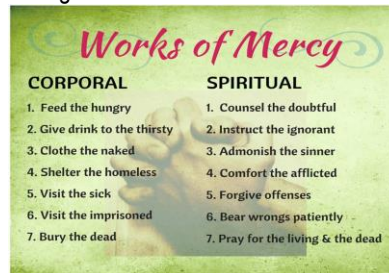
**ATTACHED GREAT FAST CALENDAR** — This **Great Fast Calendar page has been prepared by illustrator Lydia Grace Kadar-Kallen (found on Facebook in 2020).** It begins at the bottom of the page. The idea is to color one space each day as we get closer to Pascha. Parishes can print it out for their parishioners. Also, additional title of days have been alternately applied as a didactic understanding of the catechesis to our particular parishes in MR & NS. We are grateful to Lydia.

# TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

**PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST** (Matthew 25: 31-46)

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — Evidence of REPENTENCE is EXPRESSED COMPASSION*

**What do we mean by "Meat-Fare"?** — Meat-Fare Sunday indicates a farewell to meat inasmuch as in the early Christian Church meat was no longer eaten from this time on throughout The Great Fast season (today is comparable to Marti Gras of the Western Church). In the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe, the season of The Great Fast the Byzantine Catholic Ruthenian (Rusyn) faithful practiced "strict abstinence" (no meat and dairy products) for the entire Lent including Holy Week. Being an agrarian society with harsh weather conditions, a minimal amount of labor was performed, and a greater concentration was given to the Holy Fast. However, even in our



technologically advanced American society, we must make time to participate in The Great Fast services and maintain at least minimal fasting practices if we have the desire to express our love for the Lord. In this spirit, the Byzantine Catholic Church sets before us today the Last or "Terrible Judgment." Those, whom the Church was unable to convert through its instruction on the mercy of God in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, are now presented with the fear of hell in an attempt to affect them. The liturgical services are designed to fill us with salutary fear and sorrow for our sins. One of the requisites for repentance is the law of love by which Christ at His Judgment will measure all of us. Jesus describes in detail the Terrible Judgment. Compassion and mercy were branded by early philosophers as weakness, but in reality they are the signs of a nobility of heart. Christ has taught us that all those who are filled with love for Him should realize that whatever they do for the poor and the afflicted is done for Him. In describing the Last Judgment, we are led to hope for mercy if we have been charitable to our neighbors. We must always realize that our Lord is merciful in the highest degree, but He is also just.

## Our Holy Father's General Audience

**Vatican City State on the 'PRAYER'— February 3, 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now turn to the sacred Liturgy, the Church's public prayer. The Second Vatican

*"The liturgy is a place where mercy is given and encountered, a place where the great mystery of reconciliation is made present, announced, celebrated and communicated."*

Council stressed the importance of the Liturgy, together with personal prayer, for the spiritual life of Christians. Indeed, all Christian spirituality is grounded in the celebration of the sacred mysteries, in which Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes present in the midst of his people through the mediation of the sacramental signs of bread and wine, water and oil. Just as, in the Incarnation, the Son of God took flesh and dwelt among us, so too he now becomes present in all his saving power, through the liturgical celebration of word and sacrament. Our personal prayer is meant to interiorize and draw enrichment from the spiritual treasures of the Church's liturgical prayer. Because the Liturgy is the source and summit of our Christian prayer, all of us are called to take an active part in this great act of worship, by offering our own lives in union with Christ as a holy and pleasing sacrifice to the Father.

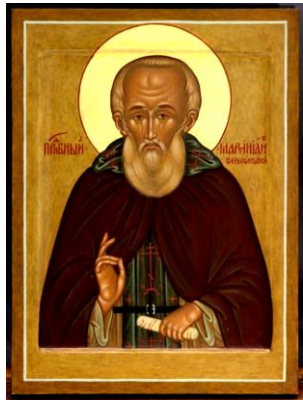
# Calendar of Upcoming Events

- February 7 ..... NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.  
..... 1<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30  
p.m.; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

## Saint of the Week

### Our Venerable Father Martinian of Caesarea February 13

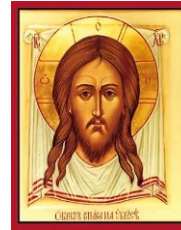
Saint Martinian went to live in the wilderness at the age of eighteen, not far from the city of Caesarea in Palestine. For twenty-five years, he devoted himself to ascetic deeds and silence, and he was granted the gift of healing illnesses and casting out demons. However, the Enemy of the race of man would not stop bothering the hermit with various temptations. Once a profligate woman made a wager with some dissolute people that she could seduce Saint Martinian, the fame of whose virtuous life had spread throughout the city. She came to him one night pretending that she had lost her way in the storm, and asking for shelter. The saint let her enter, unable to turn her away in such a storm. He went into his room and locked the door. The wicked guest changed into beautiful clothes and began to tempt the ascetic. When morning came, Saint Martinian came out to send the woman away. Though he



was tempted by the woman's beauty, he was determined not to fall into sin. Lighting a fire, he stepped into it, saying, "You want me to burn with temptation, and want to lead me into the fires of Hell. I will not let you. Instead, I will burn for my virginity and save my soul." The woman came to see how evil she was. She repented and asked the saint to guide her onto the way of salvation. He told her to go to Bethlehem, to Saint Paula (January 26). There she lived as a nun for twelve years in strict asceticism until her blessed end. The woman's name was Zoe. Saint Martinian went to an uninhabited rocky island, and lived on it under the open sky for several years, nourished by the provisions brought by a certain sailor from time to time. In return the monk wove baskets for him. Once a powerful storm wrecked a ship, and a woman named Photina floated on pieces of the wreckage to the island of Saint Martinian. Saint Martinian helped her to survive the island. "Remain here," he told her, "for here is bread and water, and in two months a boat will come." Then he jumped into the sea and swam off. Two dolphins carried him to dry land. Thereafter, Saint Martinian led the life of a wanderer. Later, he came to Athens and fell ill. Sensing the approach of death, he went into church and lay upon the floor. God revealed to the Bishop of Athens who Saint Martinian was, and the bishop buried his body with honor. This occurred around the year 422.

# General Announcements

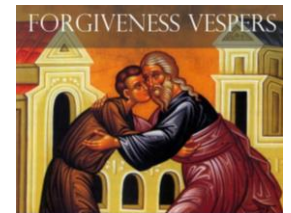
**LENTEN REGULATION FOR THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN CHURCH** — The following are the Lenten Regulations for The Archeparchy.: The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept....: **SIMPLE ABSTINENCE:** All the faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are bound to abstain from meat. *Simple Abstinence (no meat) is obligatory on all WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS of The Great Fast.* **STRICT ABSTINENCE** (No Meat or Dairy Products) is to be observed on the first day of The Great Fast — **PURE MONDAY, February 15 and on Holy & Great Friday, April 2.** If you are unable to keep either abstinences for a just cause, you are to **seek a dispensation** from the pastor.



**GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING TODAY** — The first quarter meeting will be **VIRTUAL** on **Sunday, February 7, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are expected to participate by dialing 1 (605) 472-5351. Then type in the Access Code: 451303#. You may direct your questions and/or concerns to Steve Puluka @ (412) 897-4650.



**FORGIVENESS VESPERS NEXT SUNDAY** — Next Sunday 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.



**PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS** — The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Cana Program for the Archeparchy once each year. This year's two-part Pre-Cana 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.**



**SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES AVAILABLE**— On Tuesday, Feb. 2, we commemorated the Solemn Feast of *THE ENCOUNTER OF THE LORD.* The Righteous Simeon was promised by God that he would not pass onto eternity until he had first seen the Messiah in the flesh. It is a day that Byzantine Catholics acknowledge Jesus coming to ENCOUNTER His people. Christ is the revealing light to the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel. Jesus comes as the *LIGHT OF THE WORLD.* It is on this day that candles were solemnly blessed.

