

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of Publican & Pharisee — January 24, 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 (\$4,111) YP (\$5) .....	\$4,116.00
Holy Days (\$85) Christmas 2020 (\$129) Décor (\$10) Easter (\$20) ..	244.00
Initial (\$55) BCW (\$70) .....	125.00
Votive Candles .....	112.00
	\$4,597.00

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$786.00
Utilities (\$37) BCW (\$14) Initial (\$5) .....	56.00
Votive Candles .....	57.00
	\$899.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (22);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (45); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (24)



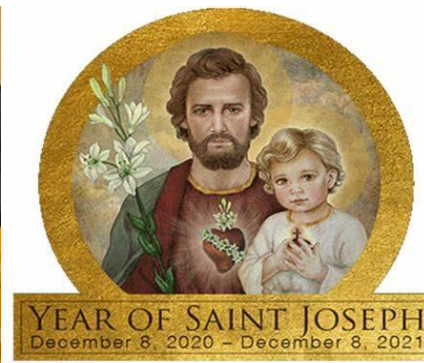
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — January 31, 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  
*III Serving Yours Since 1953*

HAPPY  
  
GROUNDHOG DAY

**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
235 McCartney Drive,  
Moon Township 15108  
Phone: (412) 580-1545  
[Nancde@aol.com](mailto:Nancde@aol.com)  
**Nancy C. Debranski**  
*Sewing, Alterations, 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

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for ads for wishing  
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possible to bring you this  
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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!*

# 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 31, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 5



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 Prodigal Son

#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing 1/11)



*Prefestive of the Encounter Feast*

Mon, Feb 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Myron F. (Rusty) Kundrat (10<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Theresa Kundrat



### ENCOUNTER OF THE LORD

#### Sanctification of Candles prior to Divine Liturgy

Tue, Feb. 2 \*8:50 a.m. (MR) Special Intentions                      Fr. Firko  
\*5:50 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes


*Synaxis of the Righteous Simeon & Prophetess Anna*

Wed., Feb 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Charles Fedorchak                      Kathy & Kevin McCrary

Thrs, Feb 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Annamae Smyda (1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 2/7)                      Anonymous

*First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

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

Fri, Feb 5  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Susan Gramata Cusatis Eleanor Gramata & Son: George  
(5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

6:00 p.m. (NS) **First Universal All-Souls w/reading of Hramoty**

*First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

### First Universal All Souls Saturday

Sat., Feb 6 9:00 a.m. (MR) **First Universal All-Souls w/reading of Hramoty**

*Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Meat-Fare – 4<sup>th</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday*

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mary O. Culan                      Lucille & Carmen Pellegrino

### Sunday of Meat-Fare — The 4<sup>th</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday

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

# 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 31 – Burt Cifrulak; GARY MULLEN, DAMIAN TRAPL; Feb 1 – Karen Grzywinski; Feb 2 – Peggi Lucas, Rosemarie Nazak, William Zavidny; Feb 4 – Madelyn Nazak, Kerri Poloka.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliunas, 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.** What does "honor your father and your mother" mean? If the parents are abusive, does this change anything? **A. Catholic Apologist, Jim Blackburn.:** St. Paul clarifies the fourth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you" (Ex. 20:12), in his letter to the Ephesians: "Children, obey your parents *in the Lord*, for this is right (Eph. 6:1, emphasis added). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) explains: As long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all that they ask of him when it is for his good or that of the family . . . But if a child is convinced in conscience that it would be morally wrong to obey a particular order, he must not do so . . . Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so respect, which is always owed to them. (CCC 2217).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**Jan. 31 — Feb. 6, 2021**

(MR): **In memory of Mosko Family**

offered by Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

(NS): **In memory of Julia & Andrew Kittan**

(MR) Available for 2021

offered by Family

(NS) Available for 2021



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Mary Sedor, 90**, at St. Clair Hospital on Monday, January 18, 2021. She was a resident of Genesis Rehabilitation, Bridgeville, Pa. She was a member of Ascension Byzantine Catholic Church, Clairton, PA., and is the beloved mother of Joanne (Gregory) Stilwell; and grandmother of parishioner, Nicholas Stilwell. A Memorial Divine Liturgy will be offered at a later date. She was interned at the Ascension Cemetery, Clairton on Saturday, Jan. 23. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Sedor and Stilwell Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Mary, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!



**HALUSKY SALE FORTHCOMING** — At the request of some Pirohi Workers, they asked that the following announcement be rendered in today's S.O.T. : **Pure Friday, February 19, 2021**, freshly made Halusky will be available for purchase. *Next weekend, an order form will appear in the Church Vestibule.* You will be asked to indicate the quantity and pickup day — Pure Friday, Feb 19 from 11:30 am to 2:30 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday following the weekend Divine Liturgies. The price is \$7.00 per container.

**GOLDEN JUBILIARIAN'S ANNOUNCE MILESTONE** — At the request of parishioners, **Patricia and Albert Kovacs, Sr.**, they wish to announce their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary-Milestone this past week on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to our parishioners, Patricia & Albert, and pray that God grant them many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja l Blahaja L'ita!

## Northside

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Helen E. Meaders, 100**, of Butler, PA, at the Sunnyview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center) on Saturday, January 23, 2021. She is the mother (in-law) of parishioners, Deacon Michael (Cindy) Meaders. She is also survived by step-grandchildren a step-great-grandson, step-great-grand-dgtr, and several nephews and nieces and sister-in-law. She was an active member of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Lyndora, PA., and an active member of GCU Lodge 109, District 15. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Geibel Funeral Home, Butler. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Thursday, Jan 28 @ 10:00 a.m. Her son, Deacon Michael delivered the eulogy. The internment was at the Rose Hill Cemetery, Butler. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Meaders and Ligas Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Helen, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!



**(NS) & (MR) REMEMBERS YOUR BELOVED DEPARTED** — This week, **February 5-6** we are marking the first of five All Souls Saturdays. It is a time to remember our loved ones by name as the priest prays for the repose of their souls. If you would like to renew the intention for your beloved, there is a special envelope in your contribution box, list only the first names of your departed family members. Also, make an extra effort to be present during the Divine Liturgy on these special days and receive Holy Communion worthily with the intention for the repose of their souls.



# Today's Gospel Meditation

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> of Five Sundays Prior to The Great Fast

### **THE RETURN BACK to the Father** (Luke 15: 11-32)

Who does not know this parable from the Gospels? Even non-Christians use the expression "like the prodigal son." But how often do we really understand it? By our sins, but



even more by our forgetfulness, we distance ourselves from God and His Kingdom, we go off alone to "a far country." We waste the talents which God has given us. And we become spiritually impoverished; we begin to be in want. This is unavoidable; we were created for God's Kingdom, so we are not capable of being truly happy and satisfied anywhere else. But we are afraid to turn to God, so we seek happiness and satisfaction from transitory things which can never satisfy us. Returning back to the Father in repentance will assure us of salvation. We must remember the heavenly city which is the goal of our pilgrimage. We must realize that in this world we are all exiles, we are all "displaced" from our true Home in the Heavenly Kingdom. That gift of memory, of understanding of our situation, enables us to resolve, like the Prodigal Son: "I will get up and go back to my Father!" With this realization, we resolve to make the effort during The Great Fast, to travel this spiritual road back to the Heavenly Kingdom. It is not easy; it will take time and energy, and sometimes we shall be tired and weary. But we will not be alone; Jesus is with us, and so are all the Saints, and the Father is awaiting us with a loving, joyful welcome.

## Our Holy Father's General Audience

### Vatican City State on the 'PRAYER'— January 27, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider the importance of the Sacred Scriptures in the life of prayer. The Catechism encourages the prayerful reading of Scripture, so that a dialogue can take place between God and ourselves (cf. No. 2653). Since the Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of the sacred texts also dwells in the hearts of every believer, we are enabled, through our frequent and prayerful encounter with the revealed word, to enter more deeply into relationship with the Triune God. As a living word, the Scriptures speak to us in the here and now of our lives, illuminating new situations, offering fresh insights and often challenging our habitual way of thinking about and seeing the world. The interplay of prayer and the reading of Scripture is seen especially in the practice of *lectio divina*. This consists of slowly reading a biblical passage, then spending a period of time meditating on the text in openness to the Holy Spirit, letting God speak to us through a particular word, phrase or image. The fruit of this prayerful dialogue is contemplation, as we silently rest under the Father's loving gaze. The Scriptures thus become an inexhaustible source of peace, wisdom and strength as we grow in faith and give it concrete expression in charity and service of others.



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 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<sup>st</sup> All Souls Saturday Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.
- February 6 ..... MR 1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
- 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.

## SOLEMN HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

### The Encounter of the Lord – February 2

The fortieth day after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself.



"Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2 & Leviticus 12:2-7). Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver did not, in anyway, want to transgress His own Law whom He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zachariah, the father of John the Forerunner, was on duty in the Temple ["serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" St. Luke 1:8]. Zachariah placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion, two unusual persons appeared in the Temple: the

Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: "Now, Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation" (St. Luke 2: 29-30). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" (St. Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayer recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One. The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zachariah because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this is the new king about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime, the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Encounter of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times but the solemn celebration of this day was established in the year 544 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

# General Announcements

**SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES AVAILABLE THIS HOLY DAY** — It is an ancient tradition of our Byzantine Catholic Church to have candles solemnly blessed on February 2, the *Feast of the Encounter of the Lord with Simeon*. Candles symbolize "Christ the True Light that has come into the world." Candles are now available for purchase following the Divine Liturgy. Every home should have a blessed candle to be used throughout the year such as on anniversaries of Baptism, Chrismation, First Eucharist, House Blessings, Anointing of the Sick, Wedding Anniversaries, passing of a loved one, storms, etc. Candles are now available following the Divine Liturgies



**HOUSE BLESSINGS FINISHING** — Our pastor is just about completed with house blessings. If you would like to be a part in continuing this ancient tradition of the Annual House Blessing, please contact the Church office A.S.A.P. All Homes should always be blessed each year with this renewal blessing.



**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.**



**NEXT WEEK: GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING** — 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.



**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. **DO NOT EXTEND YOUR TONGUE.** 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.

