

Parish Offerings — 1st Sunday of The Great Fast — February 21, 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 (\$3,157) YP (\$8)	\$3,165.00
Holy Days	132.00
Eastern European Churches	999.10
Votive Candles (\$162.50) Initial (\$20)	182.50
	<hr/>
	\$4,478.60

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$965.00
Holy Days	15.00
Improvement	15.00
Votive Candles	36.00
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	\$1,031.00

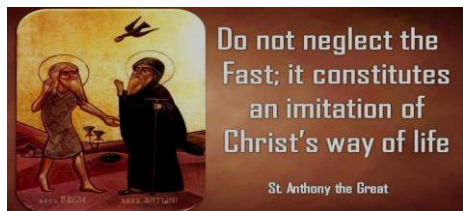
Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (27); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (38); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

II Sunday Penitential Vespers — (MR) 3:00 p.m. (15)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy

II Lenten: Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (18); Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (N/A)



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

*Create
in me a
clean heart
O God*

DESIGNS BY NANCY
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Moon Township 15108
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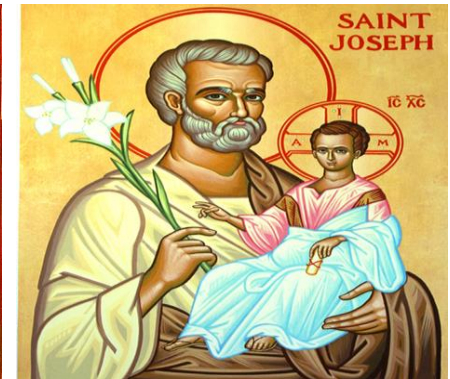
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of the Palsied Man — February 28, 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.

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.

Carpato-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 to remember the Church in our 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 28, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 9



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSED MAN

2nd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Feb 28 (14) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + John Chambers (10th ann of passing 2/25) Julie & Dgtrs

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

3:00 p.m. (MR) Penitential Vespers for the Third Week of the Great Fast

Mon, Mar 1 (15) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Debbie Crighton Maria, Luke & Anita Iyenger

Tue, Mar 2 (16) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + John Horvat Christine & Al Barnash

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed. Mar 3 (17) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours

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

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

Thrs, Mar 4 (18) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Dimitri Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(34th ann of passing)

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

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri. Mar 5 (19) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty

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

3rd UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar 6 (20) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Cross-Veneration — Third Sunday of The Great Fast

***3:50 p.m. (MR)** + Nicholas Nazak (29th ann. of passing 3/3) Wife: Rose & Family

CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY

3rd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 7 (21) ***8:50 a.m. (MR)** + Anna + Michael Sejka Children

***10:50 a.m. (NS)** + Esther M. Kallop (birthday) Valeriano & Kallop Families

***Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross prior to each weekend Divine Liturgy**

3:00 p.m. (MR) Penitential Vespers for the Fourth 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 28 – William Cullen; **Mar 1** – JAMES LASKO, Kimberly Ruud; **Mar 4** – Leyte Tomchak; **Mar 5** – Mary Elizabeth Stashkevych.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, 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.

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Helen Best, Marge Cifrutak.

ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): Nancy Wauthier.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I was told by a priest that sexual intercourse between unmarried persons is acceptable so long as it reflects a relationship of love. Lots of people seem to believe this, but is it true? **A.** **Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The only "relationship of love" that makes sexual intercourse acceptable is a marital one. The priest who told you otherwise wasn't presenting Catholic teaching on the subject, but his own (erroneous) opinion. In its Declaration on Certain Problems of Sexual Ethics, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed traditional Catholic teaching on the subject of sexual relations outside marriage: Nowadays many claim the right to sexual intercourse before marriage, at least for those who have a firm intention of marrying and whose love for one another, already conjugal as it were, is deemed to demand this as its natural outcome . . . This opinion is contrary to Christian teaching, which asserts that sexual intercourse may take place only within marriage.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Feb. 28 — Mar. 6, 2021

(MR): **In memory of John Chambers**

offered by Wife: Julie & Dgtrs.

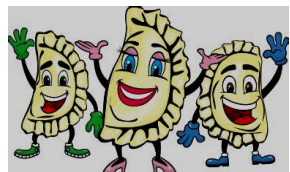
(NS): **In memory of John Horvat**

(MR) None available for 2021 offered by Christine & Al Barnash (NS) None available for 2021

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

MARK THE DATES: PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME — We are grateful that a core-group of volunteers are attempting weekly Friday sales 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 continued **tentative Friday sale dates: Mar. 5, 12, 19, & 26.** We still 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



FUNDRAISING

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:

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

CHURCH PLUMBING WORK DELAYED — Matt Merz Plumbing, North Hills, had to reschedule repairing section of heating-pipes beneath the church. The parts had not arrived at their office. Hopefully, we will be contacted this coming week.!

The Penitential Prayer of St. Ephrem

May 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 Metany*).

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

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 Metany*).

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.

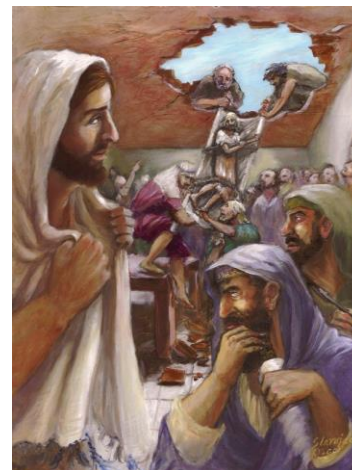
THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

Second Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

The Meaning of Offering Individual & Collective Penance

Gospel of Palsied Man — Forgiveness of sins leads to a new life (*Mark 2: 1-12*)

Sinning is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually. However, **the sinful character of mankind is something which we all share in common and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each have to do our own fair share of the effort.** And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us. The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his palsied state. They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith



and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways bad enough, we can find ways to do so. Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the palsied man. Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

Why we make 'Great Metanies' (Prostrations) Especially during the Great Fast

The importance of Great Metanies (Prostrations), is far more spiritual than physical.



In bending our knees, we assume an **attitude of humility** before the God to whom we offer our prayer. Kneeling, then touching our forehead to the ground, **we acknowledge our sinfulness**; we create a living image of our fall into sin. Our very posture represents a confession of that state, a **calling to mind of our spiritual poverty**, of our susceptibility to passions of greed, lust, anger and malice. As we make our descent in body and in spirit, we

confess as well the Name above every name, the Name that "upholds the universe," as the *Shepherd of Hermes* (an early Christian writing) expresses it, and upholds our personal world as well: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!"

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.**
 Place Pirohi Orders for Friday Pickup: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. (412) 331-5155.
 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.
 March 7 Penitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.
 March 10 .. **IV 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.**
 Place Pirohi Orders for Friday Pickup: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. (412) 331-5155.
 March 12 **IV LENTEN FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am;
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty
 March 13 4th Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
 March 14 Penitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week — March 5

The Holy Martyr Conon of Isauria

The Holy Martyr Conon of Isauria was born in Bethany, a village near the Asia Minor city



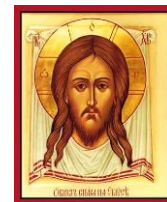
of Isauria, whose inhabitants had accepted Christianity from the Apostle Paul. From his youth, Saint Conon was accorded the special protection of the "Archistrategos" ("Leader of the Heavenly Hosts") Michael, who appeared to him and assisted him in many difficult circumstances in life. At the insistence of his parents, Conon was betrothed to a maiden named Anna. He persuaded her to live with him in virginity after the wedding. The young couple lived as brother and sister, devoting themselves entirely to God. Saint Conon brought also his parents to the Christian Faith. His father, Saint Nestor, received a martyr's death for denouncing idol-worshippers. After burying both his mother and wife, Saint Conon continued his service to God, devoting himself entirely to monastic works,

fasting and prayer. In his declining years the holy ascetic was glorified with the gift of wonderworking. By of his preaching and miracles many pagans were converted to Christ. It is said that even the evil spirits were forced to serve him. When a persecution against Christians broke out in Isauria, one of the first to suffer was Saint Conon. He was subjected to fierce torments for his refusal to offer sacrifice to idols. When the people of Isauria learned of the tortures to which the saint was being subjected, they came forth bearing arms to defend the martyr. Frightened by the people's wrath, the torturers fled, and the Isaurians found the martyr wounded and bloodied at the place of torture. Saint Conon wished to endure martyrdom for the Lord, but he lived two more years. Saint Conon died in the second century and was buried beside his parents and wife.

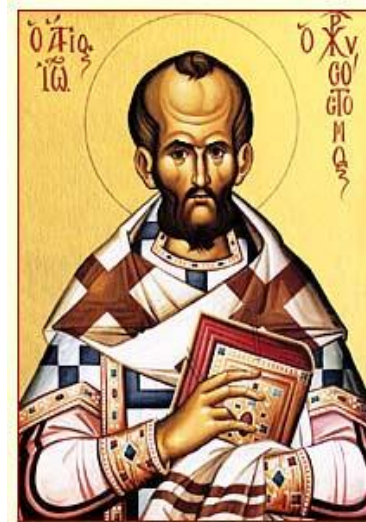
General Announcements

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 — St. John Chrysostom in beseeching God for our beloved: *"Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice [Job 1:5], why would we doubt that*



our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them" (Homilies on First Corinthians 41:5 [A.D. 392]). — *"Weep for those who die in their wealth and who with all their wealth prepared no consolation for their own souls, who had the power to wash away their sins and did not will to do it. Let us weep for them, let us assist them to the extent of our ability, let us think of some assistance for them, small as it may be, yet let us somehow assist them. But how, and in what way? By praying for them and by entreating others to pray for them, by constantly giving alms to the poor on their behalf. Not in vain was it decreed by the apostles that in the awesome mysteries (Divine Liturgy) remembrance should be made of the departed. They knew that here there was much gain for them, much benefit. When the entire people*

stands with hands uplifted, a priestly assembly, and that awesome sacrificial Victim is laid out, how, when we are calling upon God, should we not succeed in their defense? But this is done for those who have departed in the faith, while even the catechumens are not reckoned as worthy of this consolation, but are deprived of every means of assistance except one. And what is that? We may give alms to the poor on their behalf" (Homilies on Philipians 3:9–10 [A.D. 402]). 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 (March 6, 13 & May 22. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.

AREA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH OFFER LENTEN KITCHEN — St. Elias

Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall will be offering a Lenten Kitchen: from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every Lenten Friday. There will be no Lenten Kitchen on Holy and Great Friday! The Menu includes: Soup, pirohi, noodle Haluski, baked fish dinner or fried fish (sandwiches or dinners) shrimp dinner and a bake sale. Please call (412) 461-9271 for take outs.

