Parish Offerings – 2nd Sunday of The Great Fast – February 28, 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 (\$2,222.80) YP (\$10)	\$2,232.80
Holy Days	20.00
Eastern European Churches	135.00
Votive Candles (\$67.50) Initial (\$10) BCW (\$14)	91.50
volive Candles (507.50) Initial (510) BC w (514)	91.50

\$2,479.30

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$508.00
Holy Days (\$5) Easter (\$35) Easter Décor (\$20)	
Utilities (\$40) Improvement (\$15)	
Votive Candles	

\$659.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (42); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (51); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (20) *II Sunday Penitential Vespers* — (*MR*) 3:00 p.m. (8) *Presanctified Divine Liturgy III Lenten: Wednesday* — (MR) 7:00 pm (18); *Friday* — (NS) 6:00 pm (N/A) 3rd All Souls Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (N/A)







call Tina (412) 859-9597



This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office



235 McCartney Drive, Moon Township 15108 Phone: (412) 580-1545 Nancde@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts





HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY — March 7, 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

 $Web\mbox{-site: www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org-E-Mail:\mbox{ ffaf} 334@verizon.net$

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 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).

March 7, 2021

Seasonal Greeting: Volume XI Number 10



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



Date

Time

Liturgical Services for the Week Intention

Requested By

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

Mon, Mar 8 (22) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Barry W. Smyda MaryEllen & John Oslick (3rd ann of passing)

Commemoration of the Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste Tue, Mar 9 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Kundrat

Theresa Kundrat

Kathy & Kevin McCrarv

(8th ann of passing 3/8) **REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE** (no meat)

Wed. Mar 10 (24) 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 Liturav

Thrs. Mar 11 (25) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Charles Fedorchak

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri. Mar 12 (26) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours 6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty

UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat. Mar 13 (27) 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Lituray of the Fourth Sunday of The Great Fast — St. John Climacus 4:00 p.m. (MR) + Loretta Yakubik (13th ann. of passing 3/13) Datr: Evelyn

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS SUNDAY

4th Sunday of The Great Fast – St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 14 (28) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased Vrabel Family Julia Ann & George F. Mosko **11:00 a.m.** (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes 3:00 p.m. (MR) Penitential Vespers for the Fifth 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

Mar 7 - Andrew Hrishenko, WILLIAM POLOKA, Madylin Usouski; Mar 9 - Regina Mell; Mar 10 - Michael Kachuta; Mar 12 - Ray Zoldos; Mar 13 - David Kacsur.

Prav for the III. Infirm & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, OLGA MANFREDO, Joseph Mitro, Irene Muha, Michael Muska, 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 Cifrulak.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

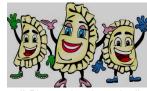
Q. Why is masturbation prohibited? God only prohibits us from what is not good for us, but it is proven to be essential for health. A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: God designed sexual expression to unite a man and woman in an intimately loving embrace that is total, faithful, free and fruitful-and thus in marriage. Indeed, the marital act is the beautiful ... Consequently, masturbation is a sin against the Sixth Commandment, because it violates the Godinscribed unbreakable bond between the love-giving and life-giving aspects of the marital act (see CCC 2366-70). Instead of the intimate and mutual self-giving that is the hallmark of the marital act, masturbation-and whether within marriage or outside of marriage-is an act in which one turns selfishly inward. Indeed, masturbation is a dualistic, self-indulgent activity that uses the body as a means of personal gratification, instead of integrating one's gift of sexuality-one's powers of love and life-into a sincere self-gift to another. Masturbation attempts to dualistically divorce the physical behavior we choose to engage in from shaping our self-identity, as if the former had nothing to do with the latter. Masturbation fails to see that our bodies are not something we have but are essential to who we are and how we express ourselves as human persons, as body-soul composites (CCC 364-65) the Church has always definitively taught-and will always teach-that masturbation (CCC 2352) is "an intrinsically and gravely disordered action." And when committed with full knowledge and complete consent (CCC 1859), it is a mortal sin (see CCC 1854-64). So, masturbation is certainly not essential for our health...In addition, God gives us his grace, particularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist, to overcome our sinful sexual desires...including nocturnal emissions for men.



General Announcements McKees Rocks

MARK THE DATES: PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUES - Once again, we express our thanks to a

core-group of volunteers for the Friday sales during the Great Fast Season. We are vigilant of the Covid-19 situation, and will be directing our Project according to local county guidelines. Masks MUST be worn, physical distancing will be applied, frequent washing of hands, etc. tentative Friday sale dates: Mar. 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. Again, 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 FUNDRAISING 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:

- 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 COMPLETED THIS WEEK - Matt Merz Plumbing, North Hills, arrived on Thursday, March 4 to repair the boiler pipes beneath the Church. Addition information will be provided in an upcoming S.O.T.

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PUSSY WILLOWS FOR PALM SUNDAY — We are going to need Pussy Willows for our Palm (Flowery) Celebration on the weekend of March 27-28. Hopefully they will be ready to be harvested. We could always use additional branches. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church Office.

CLOCKS "SPRING-AHEAD" NEXT SUNDAY — Many countries observe DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME, and many do not. Many countries use DST to make better use of the daylight in the



evenings. Many people believe that DST could be linked to fewer road accidents and injuries. The extra hour of daylight in the evening is said to give children more social time and can boost the tourism industry because it increases the amount of outdoor activities. DST is also used to save energy and reduce artificial light needed during the evening hours - clocks are set one hour ahead during the spring, and one hour back to standard time in the autumn. The United States, Canada and some other countries extended DST in

2007. The start date is the second Sunday in March (previously the first Sunday in April) through to the first Sunday in November (previously the last Sunday in October).

EXPRESSING OUR PIETY & DEVOTION

Third Sunday of THE GREAT FAST Cross-Veneration Sunday: We Bow to Your Cross, O Master" (Mark 8: 34 – 9:1)

On the Third Sunday of The Great Fast, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates



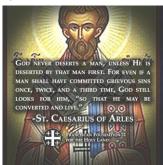
the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is

a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory. The Cross is a sign of the Triune God's unconditional love for us. We express our piety and devotion to the Precious Cross on the tetrapod by making two profound bows with sign of the Cross over ourselves saying each time silently "O God be merciful to me a sinner," venerate the Cross, and then making one more profound bow saying again, "O God be merciful to me a sinner."

Explanation of Taking Up the Cross Daily

What does this mean, "take up a cross"? It means you will bear with whatever is

troublesome, and in this very act you will be following Christ. When you begin to follow Christ according to His teaching and precepts, you will find many people contradicting you and standing in your way, many who will not only deride you but even persecute you. Moreover, this is true, not only of pagans who are outside the church, but also of those who seem to be in it visibly Although they glory in merely the title of Christian, they continually persecute faithful Christians. Such belong to the members of the church in the same way that bad blood is in the body. Therefore, if you wish to follow



Christ, do not delay in carrying His cross; tolerate sinners, but do not yield to them. Do not let the false happiness of the wicked corrupt you. You do well to despise all things for the sake of Christ, in order that you may be fit for his companionship. St. Caesarius of Arles sermons 159.5.

Saints of the Week The 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste — March 9

According to St. Basil of Caeserea (370-379 ad) in a homily stated that forty soldiers who



caeserea (370-379 ad) in a nominy stated that forty soldiers who had openly confessed themselves Christians were condemned by the prefect to be exposed naked upon a frozen pond near Sebaste (present-day Sivas in Turkey), on a bitterly cold night, that they might freeze to death in 320 ad. Among the confessors, one yielded and, leaving his companions, sought the warm baths near the lake which had been prepared for any who might prove inconstant. One of the guards set to keep watch over the martyrs beheld at this moment a supernatural brilliancy overshadowing them and at once proclaimed himself a Christian, threw off his garments, and joined the remaining thirtynine. Thus the number of forty remained complete. At daybreak,

the stiffened bodies of the confessors, which still showed signs of life, were burned and the ashes cast into a river. Christians, however, collected the precious remains, and the relics were distributed throughout many cities; in this way, veneration of the Forty Martyrs became widespread, and numerous churches were erected in their honor. The liturgical book of the Eastern Church lists the names of the Forty Martyrs as follows: Hesychius, Meliton, Heraclius, Smaragdus, Domnus, Eunoicus, Valens, Vivianus, Claudius, Priscus, Theodulus, Euthychius, John, Xantheas, Helianus, Sisinius, Cyrion, Angius, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecditius, Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Candidus, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Gorgonius, Eutyches, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valaerius, Philoctimon, Severian, Chudion, and Aglaius.

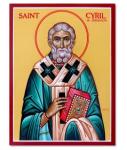
General Announcements

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. Cyril of



Jerusalem in believing and teaching us to remember those who have passed into eternity: "Then we make mention also of those who have already fallen asleep: first, the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, that through their prayers and supplications God would receive our petition, next, we make mention also of the holy fathers and bishops who have already fallen asleep, and, to put it simply, of all among us who have already fallen asleep. For We believe that it will be of very great benefit to the souls of those for whom the petition is carried up, while this holy and most solemn sacrifice (of the Divine Liturgy)

is laid out (Catechetical Lectures 23:5:9 [A.D. 350]). There are two more times to remember your loved ones in the All-Souls Commemoration. Submit their names on the special envelope in your contribution box. The remaining days are March 13 & May 22. Please make an effort to attend these special days as well.

Calendar of Upcoming Events Including Holy Week & Easter

	0 /
March 7 Po	enitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.
March 10 IV LENTEN	I WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd 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.
	IV LENTEN FRIDAY: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am;
	(NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty
	4 th Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
	enitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.
March 17 V LENTEN	I WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30
	p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. – NO MEAT.
	Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m.
	V LENTEN FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6 th & 9 th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
	NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ chanting of the Akathistos Hymn
	Saturday imploring aid of the Theotokos in our ascetical practices (MR) 9:00 a.m.
	enitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.
March 24 VI LENTEN	I 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 26	The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast. & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.
	Week VI: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
	(NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
	Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
March 28	Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies
	commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.
I	Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 3:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE March 29 through April 3

Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. Great & Holy Thursday. ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. Great & Holy Friday . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Sat. (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m. — (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

APRIL 4 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY

(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.