

Parish Offerings – SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE – February 20, 2022

“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	\$1,724.00
Votive Candles	150.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,874.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$425.00
Holy Days	30.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvements (\$40)	50.00
Votive Candles (\$57) B.C.W. (\$14)	71.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$576.00

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (25);
Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (56); (NS) 11:00 am (36)

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 27, 2022



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)

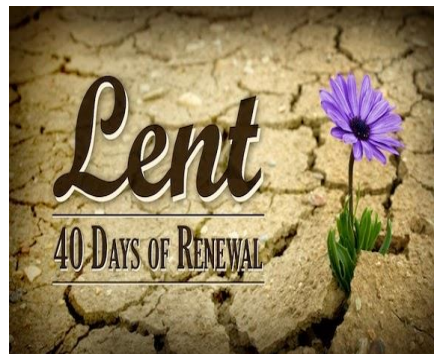
Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

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



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
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

Make this **LENT** your best ever! It's Fun, it's FREE, and it's easy on Mom & Dad!

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
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GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
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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

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 Mystery 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 Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge: (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 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 27, 2022

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 9

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



Sunday of Cheese-Fare

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday

Forgiveness Sunday

SUN, Feb 27

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Cantor John Fejka (birthday 2/28) Dgr: Susie

11:00 a.m. (NS) + August Pfeiffer Wife: Marlene


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

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 28, (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, Mar 1 (2) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Carmella Mell Dgr: Regina

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) — Pope Francis designates Prayer & Fasting for Ukraine

PURE WED, Mar 2 (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, Mar 3 (4) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Feih Family Br. Regis, O.F.M.

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE FRI, Mar 4 (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, Mar 5 (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) + Nicholas Nazak (30th ann of passing 3/3) Wife: Rose & Family

THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP

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

SUN, Mar 6 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Pearl + Andrew Revtai Revtai Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) Esther M. Kallop (birthday) Valeriano & KallopFamilies

 4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers for the Second Week of the Great Fast, Saint John the Baptist Church, Lyndora, PA



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

Birthdays: Feb 28 – William Culan; Mar 1 – JAMES LASKO; Mar 4 – Leyte Tomchak; Mar 5 – Mary Elizabeth Stashkevych.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, Steve Kosko, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier, Evelyn Yakubik.

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.

VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrutlak, Mildred Terrek.

ENCOMPASS HEALTH REHAB (351 Camp Meeting Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143): Irene Bordas.

WEXFORD HEALTHCARE CENTER (9850 Old Perry Hwy, Wexford PA 15090): Joseph Mitro

UPMC PRESBYTERIAN (200 Lothrop St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213) Tim Kacsur.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why do we praise God? Answer from a Catholic Apologist: Imagine someone who never grew up being told to say thank you. Such a person would never be really be appreciative of anything he received in life because he would simply expect it to be done. He would have no appreciation for the hard work, sacrifices, or generosity of others. And while others might simply shrug off his lack of appreciation, he missing out on a part of life that comes from appreciating others and being grateful for what we receive. The Anaphora at the Divine Liturgy speaks well when it states: "Let us give thanks to the Lord." We give praise first and foremost because it is right to praise God's goodness. After all, God could be less merciful and still be perfectly just. The praise we give to God is partly our just duty to God but also helps to keep us mindful of God's goodness and love. If we fail to appreciate God's goodness and mercy and fail to grasp his generosity in our lives, we stunt our spiritual growth. We would risk falling into the sin of presumption and losing our salvation.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 27 — March 5, 2022

(MR): In memory of the Mell Family

offered by Mell Family

(NS): In memory of Andrew, Joseph & John Hrivnak

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

offered by Nephew. Firko Family

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020



McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME FOR THE GREAT FAST — Plans have been finalized for the upcoming Pirohi Project. **Here are the Friday sales dates: Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 & 8 (no sales on Holy & Great Friday)** We would appreciate more volunteers especially pinchers! **Remember, all orders must be placed on the Wednesday prior to the sale date between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Call: (412) 331-5155.**

Place your Order

PARISH TO HOST PENITENTIAL VESPERS — On **Sunday, March 20, 2022**, our Parish will be hosting one of five Deanery Great Fast Vespers. The event will begin at 4:00 p.m. preceded by the Holy Mystery of Penance (Confessions) at 3:30 p.m. Following the Liturgical Prayer, a Fellowship that will consist of offering and serving several meatless soups and bread. The donations collected from the meatless soup & bread fellowship will be sent to the chancery office who will forward it to our Ruthenian Byzantine Church in Ukraine. This year's theme will be: **Praying for World Peace, especially in Ukraine.**



ESTABLISHING AN AUXILIARY GUILD — Prior to the pandemic outbreak, a group of volunteers met with our pastor to serve the needs of upcoming church events. Needless-to-say, it never took root. We are going to try and organize this idea once again. A short meeting will take place next **Sunday, March 6, 2022 following the Divine Liturgy**. Our first event is slated to for the hosting of the Deanery Penitential Vespers Meatless soups and bread on March 20. If you are able to join this gathering, please set aside a few minutes and join us for this reorganizational

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF GRATITUDE — Our Parish recently received a substantial donation **in honor of parishioner, Anastasia Bedard** from the N. David and Janet M. Family Foundation in the amount of \$2,000.00. We are truly humbled by this monetary gift. May God grant to all involved health and happiness for many years!

North Side Announcements

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF GRATITUDE — Our Parish recently received a substantial donation by an anonymous contributor in the amount of \$4,100.00. We are truly humbled by this monetary gift. It will be directed to either our tower bells/ and or Roof Project. May God grant to our anonymous donor health and happiness for many years!

FINALIZED SCHEDULE OF THE DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS — *The Great Fast Deanery Vespers* will be celebrated, each Sunday during The Great Fast Season at 4:00 p.m.



preceded by The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:30 p.m. The following churches have been selected to host a week: (1) **March 6, 2022 — St. John the Baptist Church, Lyndora, PA – Homilist: Fr. Valerian Mahlik;** (2) **March 13 – Saints Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne, PA – Homilist: Fr. Michael Huszti;** (3) **March 20 – Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks, PA – Homilist: Fr. Will Rupp;** (4) **March 27 – Saint John Chrysostom Church, Pittsburgh (Greenfield), PA – Homilist: Fr. Vasyl Polyak;** April 3 – **St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair, PA – Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskevich.** This will be a great penitential practice of prayer & self-denial if you wish to take it upon yourselves. Please make an effort to join us. Fellowship of meatless soups and bread will be served following the liturgical services.

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.

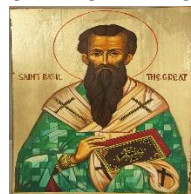
Our Holy Father's General Audience

Vatican City State on State of Ukraine — February 23, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters: My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests. I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilizing coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute. And now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. **I invite everyone to make next 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace.** I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.



ST. BASIL THE GREAT ON FASTING: *There is both a physical and a spiritual fast. In the physical fast the body abstains from food and drink. In the spiritual fast, the faster abstains from evil intentions, words and deeds. One who truly fasts abstains from anger, rage, malice, and vengeance. One who truly fasts abstains from idle and foul talk, empty rhetoric, slander, condemnation, flattery, lying and all manner of spiteful talk. In a word, a real faster is one who withdraws from all evil. As much as you subtract from the body, so much will you add to the strength of the soul. By fasting it is possible both to be delivered from future evils and to enjoy the good things to come.*



Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 27 (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 28 **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 with Great
 Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.
 March 2 **PURE WED:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.;
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Commencement of Pirohi Sales — Phone in orders on previous Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
 March 4 **PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am;
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 First Day of Lenten Pirohi Sales.
 March 6 I Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Church, Lyndora @ 4:00 p.m.
 March 9 **LENTE WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 pm ;
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Pirohi Sales Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nan
 March 11 **LENTE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR);
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty
 Lenten Pirohi Sales.
 March 12 2nd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
 March 13 ..II Deanery Penitential Great Fast Vespers at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne @ 4:00 pm.
 March 16 **LENTE WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 pm
 ;
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Pirohi Sales Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nan
 March 18 **LENTE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR);
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty
 Lenten Pirohi Sales.
 March 19 3rd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
 March 20 ..III Deanery Penitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 4:00 pm.

Saint of the Week

Miracle of St. Theodore Tyro on Pure Saturday

Fifty years after the death of St Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians. Knowing that Christians would be hungry after fasting through Pure Week, commanded the city-commander of

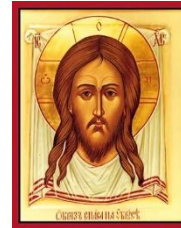


Constantinople during the first week of The Great Fast to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. St Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather 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 The Great Fast. 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, may be 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). In imitation of this ancient custom be creative many have made this Lenten dish to strengthen them during the course of the Holy and Great 40 days Fast.

General Announcements

ONCE AGAIN: LENTEN REGULATION FOR THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN

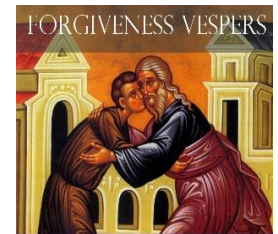


CHURCH — The following are the Lenten Regulations for The Archeparchy.: The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept....: **SIMPLE ABSTINENCE:** All the faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are bound to abstain from meat. **Simple Abstinence (no meat) is obligatory on all WEDNESDAYS & 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 28 and on Holy & Great Friday, April 15.** If you are unable to keep either abstinence for a just cause, you are to **seek a dispensation** from the pastor.

FORGIVENESS VESPERS THIS AFTERNOON — Today, February 27, 2021 @ 2:00

p.m. in McKees Rocks, we will gather to bring in the Penitential Season of The Great Fast. **Anointing with the oil of gladness 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. Also, following the (MR) Penitential Hours on Monday @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) Great Compline @ 6:00 p.m., Holy Communion will also be distributed along with the Oil of Gladness.



CONSIDERING MARRIAGE THIS YEAR? PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS —

The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Canan Program for the Archeparchy once each year. This year's two-part Pre-Canan Program is **March 26 and April 2.** 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.**



CALCULATING 40 DAYS OF LENT IN THE BYZANTINE RITE —

From Pure Monday, February 28 to Palm Friday, April 8 constitute the 40 days of the Great Fast. Holy Week is not part of the Great Fast Season. The 40 days prepare us to cleanse our souls and bodies from sin so that from Lazarus Saturday (April 9) we are made worthy to walk vicariously with Our Lord in the remaining 8 days (especially through the special liturgical church services) we may comfort our Lord through His salutary Passion, Death, Entombment and Radiant Resurrection. Let us all individually and collectively take a more serious approach in this part of our relationship to our Awesome Triune God.

