

**Parish Offerings – SUNDAY OF PRODIGAL SON – February 13, 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 (\$2,184) YP (\$6) .....	\$2,190.00
Holy Days .....	63.00
Initial (\$21) B.C.W. (\$34) Radio Ministry (\$50) .....	105.00
Votive Candles .....	584.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,942.00

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering .....	\$770.00
B.C.W. ....	14.00
Votive Candles .....	36.00

**Church Attendance Last Week \$820.00**

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (30);  
Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (61); (NS) 11:00 am (32)

**The Corporal Works of Mercy**

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

**The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

**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*



May God  
Shine Down  
His Blessings  
On You  
Today!



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**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 20, 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](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**

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 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 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 20, 2022

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 8

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



## Sunday of Meat-Fare

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — Final Judgment

**SUN, Feb 20** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret Kurtanich (birthday 2/21) Children  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen Meaders Family  
(1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 1/23)

#### Washington's Birthday Observed — Federal Holiday — NO MAIL/BANKING

Mon., Feb 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Eisenman Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

Tue, Feb 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary K. Krisko Theresa Kundrat  
(35<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

Wed, Feb. 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Revtai Revtai Family

#### 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist

Thrs., Feb 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Olga Manfredo Anonymus  
(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing)



**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**  
for peace between Ukraine and Russia

Fri, Feb 25 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Rosemarie (Oslick) Odem MaryEllen & John Oslick

Sat., Feb 26 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

#### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for 5<sup>th</sup> & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — Cheese-Fare Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Margaret Dubensky Son: Tom  
(4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

## Sunday of Cheese-Fare

### The 5<sup>th</sup> & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday

#### Forgiveness Sunday

**SUN, Feb 27** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Cantor John Fejka (birthday 2/28) Dgtr: 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.



# 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 20 – Monica Lemesh, John Marks; Feb 21 – Michael Muska; Feb 23 – Harper Kovacs, Sawyer Kovacs; Feb 26 – Helen Best, ALICE SLAGLE, Joanne Stilwell.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Tim Kacsur, 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 Cifrulak, Mildred Terrek.  
**ENCOMPASS HEALTH REHAB** (351 Camp Meeting Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143): Irene Bordas.  
**HERITAGE VALLEY KENNEDY** (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Joseph Mitro.

#### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** I received a gift from my brother of a lava-stone bracelet. The tag says, "Lava stone is a grounding stone that helps us connect to the energies of Mother Earth and the element of fire. It can help to dissipate anger and absorbs negative energy." This sounds New Age to me. What should I do? If I take it apart and make jewelry with it, would that be wrong? **Answer by Catholic Apologist Peggy Frye:** Although New Agers may believe that lava stones are good for healing (chakras) and vitality, these stones do not contain any magical properties. They are lava rock deposits. If you don't attach any mystical power to these stones, you can do what you want with them.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

### February 20 — February 26, 2022

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

offered by Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy

(NS): In memory of Helen (Seman) Lucy (birthday 2/9)

(MR) None available for 2022

offered by Sister: Velma

(NS) None available for 2022



# 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. & 12:00 noon. Call: (412) 331-5155.*



**OUR PIROHI PROCEEDS FROM THIS PAST SEASON** — Balance in Pirohi Parish Savings & Share \$60,231.16. Total Proceeds Nov. to Dec. 2021 \$19,933.00; Minus Pirohi Expenses (\$4,096.60); Minus Cathedraticum: (\$783.55); Minus Golden Corral Appreciation Dinner (\$165.33); Sent to Pirohi Parish Savings & Share: \$14,887.62; Current Balance in our Parish Savings & Share: \$39,868.88. The total cost for the 4 Washrooms Renovation Project (2-gym, 2-church basement) was \$113,892.33. Once again, this project was made possible from the hard-working Pirohi Project Volunteers who sacrificed their time and talent in making this renovation project possible! May God grant to them all many happy and blessed years.



**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. We are going to need volunteers to prepare the meal. If you can help with the project, please contact the Church office.

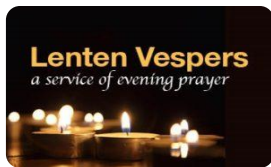


# North Side Announcements

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH THIS WEEK** — It has been a while since the Church had undergone a thorough cleaning. Hopefully, we can have this accomplished before entering The Great Fast. It is slated for this **Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Please set time aside for this needed task to be set in motion.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

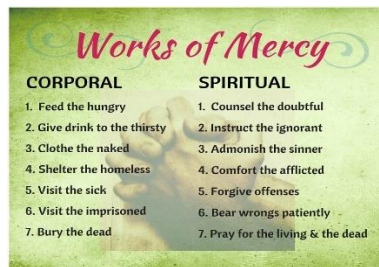


# Today's Gospel Meditation

## PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — Evidence of REPENTANCE 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.



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# Synod Questionnaires Now Available

The work of the Synod for the Synodal Church 2021-2023 as commissioned by the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* in preparation for the Synod of the entire Church will be held in Rome. Thus, all Archieparchial parishes are cordially invited to contribute to the discussion. **Take a questionnaire to be completed and returned by May 8<sup>th</sup>. A special box will be available in the Church Narthex or side vestibule to place the completed forms.** The pastor will then summarize the important aspects and then send the report to the chancery who will then summarize the responses by all Archieparchial parishioners. The report of the Archbishop will then be sent to the Vatican. *This is your chance to offer construction insight for the growth of Universal Church and her teachings.*



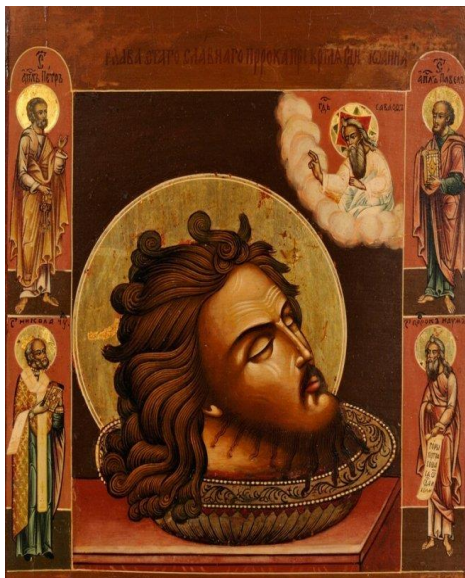
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 20 .... 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting of the GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge (MR) @ 2:00 p.m. (virtual)  
 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) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great  
 Metaxies @ 6:00 p.m.  
 March 2 ..... **PURE WED:** (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.  
 March 4 ..... **PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am;  
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.  
 ..... First Day of Lenten Pirohi Sales.

## Saint of the Week — February 25

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of St. John the Baptist's Head

The great and glorious Baptist John was beheaded according to the wish and instigation of the wicked Herodias, the wife of Herod. When John was beheaded,

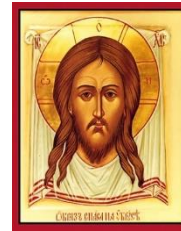


Herodias ordered that his head not be buried with his body for she feared that this awesome prophet, somehow, would resurrect. Therefore, she took his head and buried it deep in the ground in a secluded and dishonorable place. Her maidservant was Johanna, the wife of Chuza a courtier of Herod. The good and devout Johanna could not tolerate that the head of the Man of God remain in this dishonorable place. Secretly she unearthed it, removed it to Jerusalem and buried it on the Mount of Olives. After a considerable period of time, an eminent landowner believed in Christ, left his position and the vanity of the world and became a monk, taking the name, Innocent. As a monk, he took up abode

on the Mount of Olives exactly in the place where the head of the Baptist was buried. Wanting to build himself a cell for himself, he dug deep and discovered an earthen vessel and in it a head, which was mysteriously revealed to him, to be the head of the Baptizer. He revered it and reburied it in the same spot. Later, according to God's Providence, this miracle-working relic [The head of St. John] traveled from place to place, sunk into the darkness of forgetfulness and again was rediscovered. Finally, during the reign of the pious Empress Theodora, the mother of Michael and the wife of Theophilus and at the time of Patriarch Ignatius it was translated to Constantinople. Many miraculous healings occurred from the relic of the Forerunner [Precursor]. It is important and interesting to note that while he was still alive, "John did no miracles" (John 10:41), however, his relics have been endowed with miraculous power.

## General Announcements

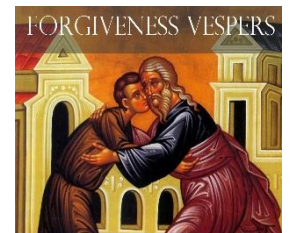
**LENTEN REGULATION FOR THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN CHURCH** — The following are the Lenten Regulations for The Archeparchy.: The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept....: **SIMPLE ABSTINENCE:** All the faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are bound to abstain from meat. **Simple 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 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.



**GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING TODAY** — The first quarter meeting will be **VIRTUAL** today on **Sunday, February 20, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are expected to participate by dialing 1 (605) 472-5352. 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 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.



**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.**



**There are several boxes of Church Envelopes and Calendars still awaiting to be taken to a good home. Please call the Church Office to arrange pick up!**