

Parish Offerings – SUNDAY OF PUBLICAN & PHARISEE – February 6, 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 (\$3,997) YP (\$9)	\$4,006.00
Holy Days (\$223) YP (\$2) Easter (\$30) Palm Sunday (\$15)	270.00
Initial (\$55) Décor (\$5) B.C.W. (\$42) B.C.W.	102.00
Votive Candles	296.50
	<hr/>
	\$4,674.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$912.25
Holy Days	15.00
Utilities (\$12) Improvements (\$50)	62.00
Votive Candles	98.25

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,087.50

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (15);
Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (59); (NS) 11:00 am (26)



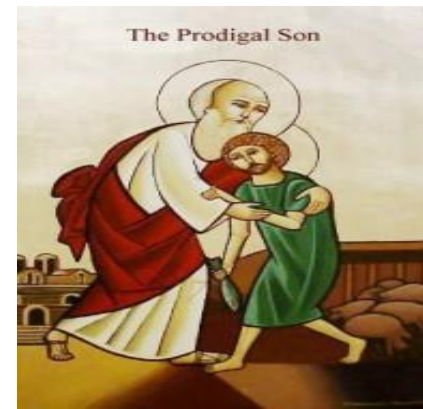
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 13, 2022



The Best Valentine is GOD
 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”
 John 3:16

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
 Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

Happy Valentine's Day!

 Happy Valentine's Day!

DESIGNS BY NANCY
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GCU
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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 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 13, 2022

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 7

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



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN, Feb 13

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka Sejka Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Fr. Ronald P. Larko. Mary Ann Smoley

Passing of St. Cyril, Co-Equal to the Apostles & Teacher of the Slavs — St. Valentine's Day

Mon, Feb 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William Roman Wife: Virginia & Family

Tue, Feb 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Lillian Buchko Patty & Mike Pavlovich

Wed, Feb. 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Jayne Skreptach + Eleanor, Kathy & John Kulka

Thrs., Feb 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Kundrat M/M Michael Ferrell



REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for reparation for the sins of abortion & the destructive sin of racism in our country

Fri, Feb 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes.

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

First Universal All Souls Saturday

Sat., Feb 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) First Universal All-Souls w/reading of Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — Meat-Fare Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John Chambers Wife: Julia & Dgtrs
(11th ann of passing 2/25; birthday 2/26; Wed. Ann. 2/28)

Sunday of Meat-Fare

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN, Feb 20

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret Kurtanich (birthday 2/21) Children
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen Meaders Family
(1st ann of passing 1/23)

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 13 – Charles Sell; Feb 15 – Paul Bodnarchuk, Kurt Marks; Feb 16 – James Schelling; Feb 17 – Theodore Babin, Linda Chomko, Julie Kutchmark.

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, Joseph Mitro, 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. So what if a fetus is alive and human? Every cell in my body is alive and human. Is every cell in my body a human being? Are sperm and eggs human beings too? **Answer by Catholic Apologist Peggy Frye:** Sperm, egg, fetuses, and toddlers are all human in the adjective sense of the word, since they possess human DNA. Unlike sperm and egg, however, fetuses and toddlers are also human in the noun sense of the word. Specifically, they are human organisms, or individual members of the human species.... You and I are organisms, because if we are given time, food, and the proper environment, we will continue to develop into mature members of the human species. Likewise, an unborn child, when given time, nutrition, and a proper environment (i.e., not outside the uterus) will develop into a mature human being if he does not die prematurely. *Embryologist E.L. Potter points out, "Every time a sperm cell and ovum unite, a new being is created which is alive and will continue to live unless its death is brought about by some specific condition" (Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant, 7).* The fact that some embryos and even other born children die before they become adult humans does not negate the fact that they are human beings. They still are human beings because they have the intrinsic capacity to develop into a mature human being even if their development is cut short.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 13 — February 19, 2022

(MR): In memory of Amelia M. & Mike J. Sotak (wed. ann 2/9)

offered by Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy

(NS): In memory of Anthony Knoll

(MR) None available for 2022 offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell (NS) None available for 2022

McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Gail Kathleen Laquinta, 71**, of Kennedy Township at her home surrounded by family on Monday, February 7, 2022.. She is survived by Daughter Lori Ann (Sal, Sr.) Cinea) and Son, Samuel III). She is also survived by several siblings including sister and parishioner, Norma (Peter) Kacsur, nieces and nephews including parishioner, Donna (Harry) Kacsur; Great-nieces and parishioners, Mary Elizabeth (Fr. Vitalli) Stashkevych and Stephanie Herron. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Mussmanno Funeral Home, Kennedy Township. A Funeral service at the Funeral Home was celebrated on Friday, Feb. 11. Interment followed at Resurrectional Cemetery, Moon Township. Our parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Laquinta, Kacsur and Herron Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal rest* to your servant, Gail, and remember her forever. *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'*!



HIGH-LIGHTED SUBJECT MATTERS DISCUSSED AT LAST WEEK'S PAC/FAC MEETING —



At the **February 5, 2022 Parish & Financial Advisory Councils Meeting @ 2:00 p.m.**, the following agenda was discussed: (1) Annual Financial Statement was reviewed and accepted to be distributed to the parishioners; (2) E.C.F. Religious Education will be preparing for the Corporate Communion of two girls on April 28; (3) Correcting and repairing masonry work which has cracked placing pressure on the outside basement entrance door facing the Church office is buckling the metal door.; (4) Century Interiors, Inc. completed projects of the 4 restroom projects. The Pirohi Project has made it possible for this updated project to be a reality; and (5) Church Tower Bells need repaired due to a surge strike. The insurance company has been notified.

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.**



PIROHI PROJECT FUNDS FORTHCOMING — Due to the transfer of funds for the Gym & Church Rest Rooms project, there is not enough of space in this edition of the S.O.T. to render an certain accountability. The results will appear in next week's S.O.T.

North Side Announcements

HIGH-LIGHTED SUBJECT MATTERS DISCUSSED AT LAST WEEK'S PAC/FAC MEETING —



At the **February 6, 2022 Parish & Financial Advisory Councils Meeting @ 2:00 p.m.**, the following agenda was discussed: (1) Annual Financial Statement was reviewed and accepted to be distributed to the parishioners; (2) Upcoming refreshing of the Church interior will take place on Saturday, February 26; (3) Repairing masonry work of sidewalk and steps of the church due to the harsh winter weather.; (4) the possibility of having the Church Tower Bells functioning again.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH — 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 **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.

Today's Gospel Meditation

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — 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 (God) 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.

Important Questionnaire Forthcoming

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 Archieparhial parishes are cordially invited to contribute to the discussion. **Forthcoming will be a questionnaire that you will be asked to reply to if you so choose.** A special box will be available in the Church Narthex 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 Archieparhial 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 18-19	First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.
February 20	1 st 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 st & 3 rd 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 st & 3 rd 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 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

SAINT OF THE WEEK — February 14

The Passing of the Co-Equal to the Apostles & Teacher of the Slavs, St. Cyril

Saint Cyril, Equal to the Apostles, Teacher of the Slavs, and his older brother Methodius



(April 6), were Slavs, born in Macedonia in the city of Thessalonica. Saint Cyril received the finest of educations, and from the age of fourteen he was raised with the son of the emperor. Later, he was ordained as a priest. Upon his return to Constantinople, he worked as a librarian of the cathedral church, and as a professor of philosophy. Saint Cyril successfully held debates with iconoclast heretics and with Muslims. Yearning for solitude, he went to Mount Olympus to his older brother Methodius, but his solitude lasted only a short while. Both brothers were sent by the emperor Michael on a missionary journey to preach Christianity to the Khazars in the year 857. Along the way they stopped at Cherson and discovered the relics of the Hieromartyr Clement of Rome (November 25). Arriving at the territory of the Khazars, the holy brothers spoke with them about the Christian Faith. Persuaded by the preaching of Saint Cyril, the Khazar prince together with

all his people accepted Christianity. The grateful prince wanted to reward the preachers with rich presents, but they refused this and instead asked the prince to free and send home with them all the Greek captives. Saint Cyril returned to Constantinople together with 200 such captives set free. In the year 862 began the chief exploit of the holy brothers. At the request of Prince Rostislav, the emperor sent them to Moravia to preach Christianity in the Slavic language. Saints Cyril and Methodius by a revelation from God compiled a Slavonic alphabet and translated the Gospel, Epistles, the Psalter and many Service books into the Slavonic language. They introduced divine services in Slavonic. The holy brothers were then summoned to Rome at the invitation of the Holy Father. Pope Adrian received them with great honor, since they brought with them the relics of the Hieromartyr Clement. Sickly by nature and in poor health, Saint Cyril soon fell ill from his many labors, and died in the year 869 at the age of forty-two. Before his death, he expressed his wish for his brother to continue the Christian enlightenment of the Slavs. Saint Cyril was buried in the Roman church of St. Clement, whose own relics also rest there, brought to Italy from Cherson by the Enlighteners of the Slavs.

General Announcements

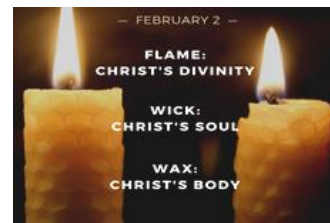
GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING NEXT WEEK — The first quarterly meeting will, once again, be VIRTUAL next **Sunday, February 20 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are expected to participate by dialing 1 (605) 472-5352. Then type in the Access Code: 451303#. You may direct your questions and/or concerns to Steve Puluka @ (412) 897-4650.



REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED DEPARTED — FIRST ALL SOULS THIS WEEK — The first of five All Souls commemoration will take place on **Feb. 18-19**. You are encouraged to remember your loved ones by submitting their first names on the envelope in your contribution box. If you have participated last year, you need only to write new names. The Church has the previous names. It is so important that we remember and commemorate our loved ones who have gone into eternity!



SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES STILL AVAILABLE — 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*. The Solemn Blessing of Candles symbolize “Christ the True Light that has come into the world.” Candles are still 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, Wedding Anniversaries, passing of a loved one, storms, etc.



TENTATIVE 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 tentatively selected to host a week. The schedule will be definitive following the Protopresbytery Meeting on Feb. 15. (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 – St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair, PA – Homilist: Fr. Vasyly Polyak;** and (5) **April 3 – Saint John Chrysostom Church, Pittsburgh (Greenfield), 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.

