

Parish Offerings – SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS – January 30, 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	\$1,552.00
Holy Days (\$303) YP (\$7)	310.00
B.C.W.	14.00
Votive Candles	126.50
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	\$2,002.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

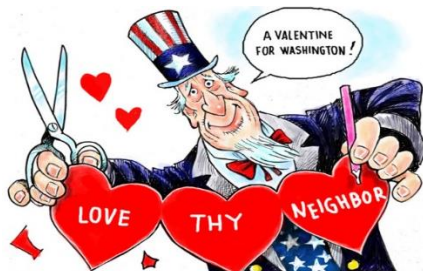
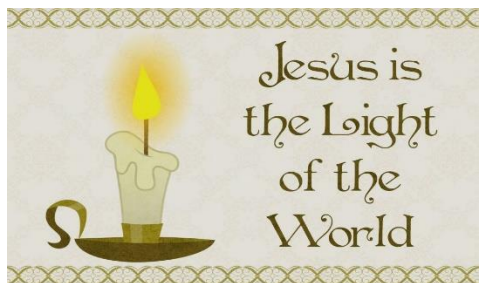
Regular Offering	\$725.00
Holy Days	70.00
Initial (\$15) Utilities (\$15) Improvements (\$10) B.C.W. (\$42)	82.00
Votive Candles	55.25

Church Attendance Last Week \$932.25

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (26);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (52); (NS) 11:00 am (22)

Feast of the Encounter (Feb 2) — Wed (MR) 8:50 am (17); (NS) 5:50 pm (36)



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

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.
 - C.S. Lewis

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GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society
 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

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 6, 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

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.
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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 6, 2022

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 6



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



Sunday of Publican & Pharisee

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — Postfestive of Encounter Feast

SUN, Feb 6

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mosko Family Julia A. Mosko & George F. Mosko

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop. Valeriano & Kallop Families
(8th ann of passing 2/19)



Mon, Feb 7

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Annamae Smyda MaryEllen & John Oslick
(2nd ann of passing)

Tue, Feb 8

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Muska Gladys Muska
(9th ann of passing)



Final Day of the Encounter Feast

Wed, Feb. 9

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Anne Charochak Mom: Florence
(40th day of passing 2/8)



Thrs., Feb 10

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Hopey Elaine Kurtanich

TRADITIONAL MITIGATED SIMPLE ABSTINANCE THIS WEEK. The Church teaches us that fasting does not bring profit to our souls when practised in the fashion of the Pharisee

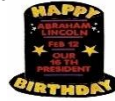
Fri, Feb 11

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Josipa Opat Gataric Familj

President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, the 16th President of the U.S.A.

Sat, Feb 12

9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — Prodigal Son

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr. (birthday 2/20) Grandson: Mike Tomchak



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

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 7 – THERESA FECIK; Feb 8 – Peggy McCusker; Feb 11 – Beatrice Stempkowski.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, 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 Cifruk, Mildred Terrek.

UPMC MONTEFIORE (3459 5th Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213): Irene Bordas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why exactly is sexual intercourse outside of marriage a mortal sin? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: Sexual intercourse outside of marriage is a grave sin because in order to perform the acts that lead to the bringing forth of new life, the couple need to be united in a stable, permanent union that guarantees that the child to be born can be cared for and brought up for the service of God and neighbor in a consistent and reliable way. The principal end of sexual intercourse is the procreation of children, and so the pleasure of the couple or the satisfaction of desire is only right if it is in the context of a union that can take care of the new life. This means that the man and woman have to love each other in so committed a way that they are willing to bear children to each other. To deal with sexual intercourse in any less careful way is a grave sin.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 6 — February 12, 2022

(MR): In memory of the Mosko Family

offered by Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

(NS): In memory of Esther M. Kallop (8th ann of passing 2/19)

(MR) None available for 2022

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) None available for 2022



McKees Rocks Announcements

BELL SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED — A general review of our Tower Bell System indicated a power surge or lightening strike that fried the circuit board. Last year, the Verdin Carillon Company was to render its bi-annual inspection. Due to the pandemic and lack of personal, it was never accomplished. Our pastor contacted an independent bell inspector to survey the situation. He wrote an analysis of the situation to be presented insurance company. We are awaiting word as how to proceed. In the meantime, we have temporary Carrollian sounding bells to render partial functionality.



TENTATIVE PLANS UNDERWAY FOR OUR GREAT FAST PIROHI PROJECT — We are working to organize plans for this year's Lenten Pirohi Project. When additional information is available, it will appear in an upcoming S.O.T.



Annual Report FINANCIAL STATEMENT WILL APPEAR SOON — THE 2021 General Financial Statement will be available shortly. Hopefully, the weather will be amenable so that our PAC/FAC can view the report prior to being available to the congregation. This also includes the results of the Phillipian Fast Pirohi Project,



North Side Announcements

FINANCIAL STATEMENT WILL APPEAR SOON — THE 2021 General Financial Statement will be available shortly. Hopefully, the weather will be amenable so that our PAC/FAC can view the report prior to being available to the congregation.



VOLUNTEERS 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.

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.

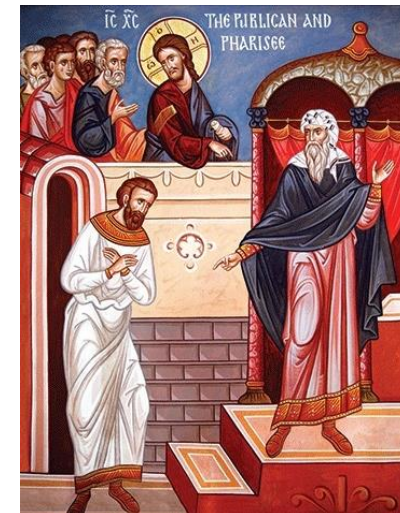


Today's Gospel Meditation

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — HUMILITY before God & Neighbor (Luke 18: 10-14)

Jesus was constantly combating the self-righteousness that he found such a sinister enemy of spiritual progress. This parable is addressed directly to the self-righteous. The Pharisee and the tax collector are stereotypes of the good and the sinful person. The Pharisee prays with straightforward gratitude for his healthy spiritual state. There is no sign that he is trying to deceive. Pharisees did fast severely twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, for the good of the whole nation. And there is no reason to doubt that he tithed. *The tragedy is that he does not understand the flawed nature of this prayer.* He is deceiving himself. He does not look upon himself as God's servant but as one who deserves good of God for a job well done. Besides this pride, he is guilty of contempt for the tax collector. The tax collector is conscious of his sinfulness. He knows that he does not deserve consideration because of anything he has done. The prayer he utters is one of the sources of the ancient Jesus Prayer: *"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."* It is this helplessness and dependence that opens one to God's grace; it is the spirit of the child. Earlier Jesus commended one who would say, after doing good work that was a duty, "We are unprofitable servants" (17:10). The debate over faith and works is already engaged here (see Rom 3:27-4:5). Jesus Himself draws the shocking conclusion from the parable: the observant Pharisee goes home unjustified; the sinful tax collector is justified. The reversal maxim concludes the story.



SIMPLE ABSTINENCE IS MITIGATED THIS WEEK

The Church looks upon every Friday as a special day of remembrance of Our Lord's salvific death upon the Precious Cross. Fasting/Abstinence are a reminder that we must be humbly grateful to Jesus for dying for our sins. However, there are certain Fridays throughout the liturgical life that we put aside this penitential character for other didactical expressions. For example, this **Friday following the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee, simple abstinence is mitigated so that we focus on the fact that abstinence is not an end in itself.** Christ is our end and He is the only One Who can save us. We cannot save ourselves even if we were to fast every day! For we who are used to abstaining from meat or doing an equivalent penance each Friday, this is difficult, but necessary to keep us humble and to focus on the value of what fasting and abstinence truly accomplish. It then aids in strengthening us at the appropriate times when we are called to its practice.



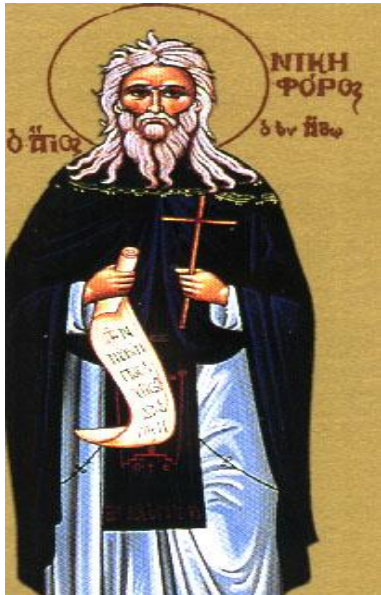
Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 6	(NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the DL.
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 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 9

Holy Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch, in Syria

The Holy Martyr Nicephorus lived in the city of Syrian Antioch. In this city lived also the presbyter Sapphirus, with whom Nicephorus was very friendly, so that they were considered as brothers. They quarreled because



of some disagreement, and their former love changed into enmity and hate. After a certain time, Nicephorus came to his senses, repented of his sin and more than once asked Sapphirus, through mutual friends, to forgive him. Sapphirus, however, did not wish to forgive him. Again, Nicephorus went to his former friend and fervently asked forgiveness, but Sapphirus was adamant. At this time the emperors Valerian (253-259) and Gallius (260-268) began to persecute Christians, and one of the first brought before the court was the priest Sapphirus. He firmly confessed himself a Christian, underwent tortures for his faith and was condemned to death by beheading with a sword. As they led Sapphirus to execution, Nicephorus tearfully implored his forgiveness saying, "O martyr of

Christ, forgive me if I have sinned against you in any way." The priest Sapphirus remained stubborn, and even as he approached death he refused to forgive his fellow Christian. Seeing the hardness of his heart, the Lord withdrew His blessing from Sapphirus, and would not let him receive the crown of martyrdom. At the last moment, he suddenly became afraid of death and agreed to offer sacrifice to idols. In vain did St Nicephorus urge Sapphirus not to lose his reward through apostasy, since he already stood on the threshold of the heavenly Kingdom. St Nicephorus then said to the executioner, "I am a Christian, and I believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. Execute me in place of Sapphirus." The executioners reported this to the governor. He decided to free Sapphirus, and to behead Nicephorus in his place. Thus did St Nicephorus inherit the Kingdom and receive a martyr's crown.

General Announcements

GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING IN TWO WEEKS — The first quarterly meeting will, once again, be VIRTUAL on **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 FORTHCOMING

— The first of five All Souls commemoration will take place on **Feb. 19-20**. 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 now 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.

INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE— If MR Members would like a record of their 2021 individual financial report, please contact the office between 9:30 am to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If no answer, please leave a request on the voice-mail. Since there are few NS Members, Individual Financial reports are available in the (NS) narthex. Please discontinue using your 2021 envelopes. Your number may have changed!



HOUSE BLESSINGS JUST ABOUT COMPLETED



— Our pastor is just about finished with house blessings. The weather has not been too cooperative this past week. He will continue this week. If you would like to be a part in continuing this ancient tradition of the Annual House Blessing, please contact the Church office A.S.A.P. All Homes should always be blessed each year with this renewal blessing.