

Parish Offerings – SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE – February 27, 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 (\$2,226) YP (\$10)	\$2,236.00
Holy Days	165.00
Initial	5.00
Votive Candles	112.50
	<hr/>
	\$5,518.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$816.55
Holy Days	10.00
Utilities (\$45) B.C.W. (\$14)	59.00
Votive Candles	47.70

Church Attendance Last Week \$933.25

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (39);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (75); (NS) 11:00 am (34)

Forgiveness Vespers – (MR) 2:00 pm (15)

Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (12); (NS) 6:00 pm (8)

Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (21); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (11)



THERE'S SOME SALESMAN HERE WITH A GOOD DEAL ON AN APPLE ... ARE WE INTERESTED?



THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT

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



DESIGNS BY NANCY

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

Nancy C. Debranski

*Sewing, Alternations, Custom
Embroidery and Unique Gifts*

**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**



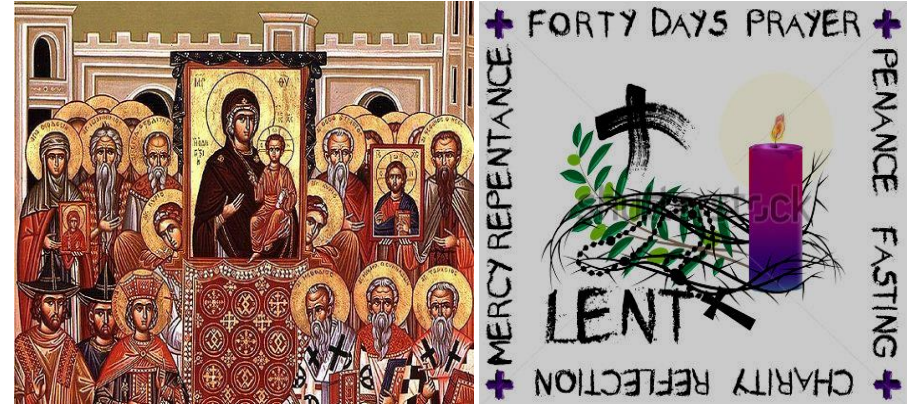
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Triumph of True Worship — March 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.

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!



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

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).

March 6, 2022

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 10



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

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 & Kallop Families
***** 2:30 p.m.** A Prayer Gathering for Peace, St. Paul Cathedral in collaboration and solidarity with the Pittsburgh area Ukrainian community. The first Deanery Penitential Vespers in Lyndora has been cancelled.

Mon, Mar 7 (8) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Barry Smyda MaryEllen & John Oslick
(4th ann of passing 3/8)

Tue, Mar 8 (9) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Ann Kundrat Theresa Kundrat
(9th ann of passing)

The 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) for World Peace, especially in Ukraine

Wed. Mar 9 (10) **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 Liturgy

Thrs, Mar 10 (11) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Carol Schaner (birthday 3/9) Shirley Zetts & Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) for World Peace, especially in Ukraine

Fri, Mar 11 (12) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours
 **6:00 p.m. (NS)** Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty

2nd UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar, 12 (13) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Palsied Man — Second Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Loretta Yakubik Dgtr: Evelyn
(14th ann of passing 3/6)

THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

2nd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 13 (14) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Vrabel Family Julia Ann Mosko & George F. Mosko
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne, PA preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..

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: **Mar 7** – Andrew Hrishenko, Madelyn Usouski; **Mar 9** – Regina Mell; **Mar 10** – Michael Kachuta; **Mar 12** – Ray Zoldos.

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 Cifrutak, Mildred Terrek.

CONCORDIA VILLA OF ST. JOSEPH (1030 W. State St., Baden, PA 15005: Irene Bordas.

CELEBRATION VILLA (2219 Walters Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101: Joseph Mitro

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

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why can't we eat meat on Wednesday and Fridays in Lent? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Church asks us to abstain from meat on these days as a means of "offering our bodies as a living sacrifice" in union with Christ (Rom. 12:1; CCC 1434). The purpose is not to make life tough for us. The Church is truly working in our best interest and only asks us to do what is ultimately good for us. It has always been a tradition of the Church from apostolic times to practice penance on Wednesdays and Fridays as report in the early 1st century writing known as the Didache. Fridays remind us to do penance since it was the day of Our Lord's Crucifixion, the ultimate sacrifice. We do penance for several reasons: (1) As a way to atone for sins of the past, both ours and others (Col. 1:24); (2) To lean to master our inclinations towards sin (Jas. 1: 2-4); (3) To help us prepare for Holy Week and the Feast of the Radiant Resurrection; (4) As a sign of our conversion; and (5) As a way to purify our soul (CCC 2043).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 6 — March 12, 2022

(MR): **In memory of the Vrabel Family**

offered by Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

(NS): **Health & Welfare of the Hubal Family**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2022

offered by Hubal Family

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2022



McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME FOR THE GREAT FAST — *Here are the remaining*

Place your Order

Friday sales dates: Mar. 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.

PARISH TO HOST PENITENTIAL VESPERS — Just another reminder that on **Sunday, March 20, 2022**, our Parish will be hosting one of four 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 FOLLOWING TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY —

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 **following this morning's 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

North Side Announcements

NOTE OF GRATITUDE — For all the volunteers who came to clean the Church last week, we are deeply touched by you giving of your valuable time. Our Church is precious and holy. It is where God resides in the Holy Tabernacle. May He bless you for this special sacrifice.

SPECIAL PRAYER GATHERING THIS AFTERNOON — In the light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the chancery sent this communique: "This **Sunday, March 6 at 2:30 p.m.**, Christian Associates is among numerous co-sponsors of A Prayer Gathering for Peace, an interfaith service at **Saint Paul Cathedral in Oakland**, Pittsburgh organized in collaboration and solidarity with the Pittsburgh-area Ukrainian community. You are encouraged to represent our parish and archeparchy.

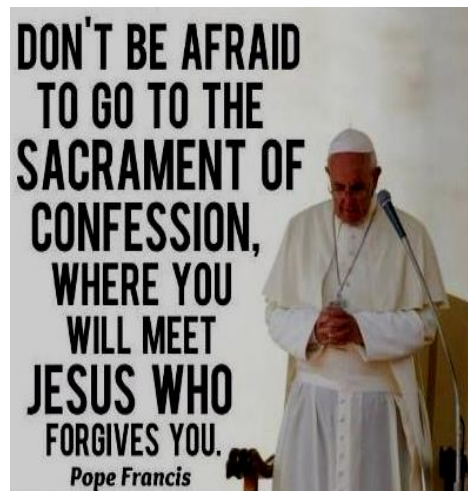
SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR OUR MOTHER EPARCHY NEXT WEEK — As announced at last weekend's Divine Liturgy, the Archbishop Skurla has directed that a special collection be taken up during the Ukraine Crisis. Please make your checks out to: Holy Ghost Church. Our Parish office will then forward your donation to the chancery office. It is being directed to our Byzantine Eparchy in Mukachevo, Ukraine, located in the western part of the Country partially bordering Slovakia.

WEEKLY 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 — Canceled due to the Special Gathering of Prayer for Ukraine;** (2) **March 13 – Saints Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne, PA – Homilist: Fr. Michael Huszti.**

THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

The preceding abridged text is taken from an informal lecture Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira gave on February 23, 1964. It's message is just as pertinent today.

It is said that today's world is profoundly against penance and mortification. This is quite true We tend to be against penance because of the principle behind it. This



consists in the fact that man is a sinner. **All sin is an insult to Divine justice and majesty, and therefore the sinner must make reparation** by suffering in proportion to the delight that he should not have had but did. Penance therefore is a kind of restitution. Just as a thief who steals money is required to repay it, so also from the standpoint of the designs of Divine Providence, the sinner who steals illicit pleasures to which he is not entitled must also pay something back. According to the scales of Divine justice, this is done by suffering in proportion to

the harm that was done. In the act of penance, we find recognition of sin, the gravity of sin, and God's offended majesty. We realize that our offense cannot be appeased with empty words and ideas but with self-control and self-imposed suffering in reparation for what was done. More importantly, penance recalls to mind that **we are conceived in Original Sin and thus have disorderly instincts that must be overcome and fought.** Even when there is no fault of our own, it is often advisable, and many times indispensable, to crush the impulses of these disordered senses by doing something that breaks the cravings of the flesh and thus to practice penance. There is nothing more opposed to the modern mentality than the idea that man is weak, inclined to evil, and must fight his instincts and senses. Watch any modern movie, open any novel or romance or enter any public place and we see that the idea of penance is far away. **Human pride, even more than sensuality, rebels against penance** God wants us to have the right spirit, principles, the ideas of penance and not just the concrete acts. When penance is done in the right spirit, it above all punishes our pride and makes us bow to the reality of human misery in general and also our individual misery.

The Penitential Prayer of St. Ephrem

To be prayed each day of The Great Fast

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power and idle chatter (*Great Metany*).

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love (*Great Metany*).

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins, and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen (*Great Metany*).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 6 CANCELED: I Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Church, Lyndora @ 4:00 p.m. We are asked to attend A Prayer Gathering for Peace, St. Paul Cathedral in collaboration and solidarity with the Pittsburgh area Ukrainian community.

March 9 **LENTEN 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 **LENTEN 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 **LENTEN 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 **LENTEN 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.

Faith Event of the Week

The Triumph of True Worship Celebrated Today

Commemorated on the First Sunday of The Great Fast

A "guileless image" is so important in our relationship with God as in Nathaniel's case. An Icon (meaning "image") depicts a guileless character of its representative created in God's



image. In the Old Testament, due to the danger of idolatry, God forbade the Jews to worship the "carved image or likeness" of any creature (Ex. 20:4-5; Duet. 4:15-20). Early Christians, too, in the face of paganism and idolatry, adhered to these Mosaic ordinances. After the victory of Christianity over paganism (313 A.D.), when Christian theology was sufficiently developed, the Fathers of the Church gradually admitted the public veneration of icons. *The iconoclastic fury of Emperor Leo the Isaurian (717-741), during which the leading defenders of the icons were St. Germanus of Constantinople (d. 733) and St. John Damascene (d. 749) made the Church define her teachings. In reply, at the seventh Ecumenical Council of Nicea (787), the Church's teaching concerning the veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed.*

The Fathers explained that the veneration of icons, theologically, was based on the mystery of incarnation, since in the person of Jesus Christ we received revelation not only of the "Word of God" (Jn. 1:1-14), but also of the "Image of God," as attested by St. Paul saying that Jesus is the "image (eikon) of the unseen God." (Col.1:15) Jesus Himself testified: "To have seen Me is to have seen the Father!" (Jn. 14:9).

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.

Don't forget: Clocks SPRING AHEAD ONE HOUR next Sunday!

General Announcements

Our Holy Father's General Audience Message Vatican City State on the MEANING & VALUE OF OLD AGE— March 2, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the meaning and value of

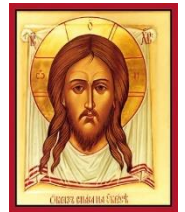


old age, viewed in the light of God's word, we now consider the contribution that the elderly can make to the development of a truly humane society, one in which every age group has something to offer. ***The elderly have much to teach us about the meaning of life; theirs is a wisdom, matured over time, that can help us to face the ever new questions and challenges raised by today's rapidly evolving society.*** For this

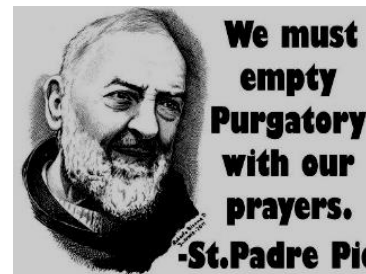
reason, I wished to set aside a special day in July to honor grandparents and the elderly. The covenant between young and old – indispensable for a healthy social life – can help us, amid today's frenetic pace of life, to remember that, as men and women made in the image of God, we are called to a fuller vision of our life together, rediscovering God's presence in our midst and caring for the needs of our brothers and sisters. ***May we recognize the importance of the elderly among us,*** and learn from them that the true rhythms of life are those, not of the stop-watch, but of the harmonious relationship between the generations.

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 and receiving Holy Communion.** 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 —



During the Great Fast Season, the Church is remembering in a special way all those who have departed in the true faith, especially through the reading of the Hramoty (List of submitted names). It is an act of continual love for our beloved who have passed into eternity by rendering the Alms of Prayer. If you haven't submitted the special envelope in your envelope box with the names of your beloved, please do so immediately to that they may be

included in the next three Lenten special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.