

**Parish Offerings –3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – March 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 (\$2,094) YP (\$12) .....	\$2,106.00
Holy Days (\$90) Easter Decor (\$458) .....	548.00
Eastern European Churches (\$135) Initial (\$15) B.C.W. (\$14) .....	164.00
Votive Candles .....	114.05
	\$2,932.05

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering .....	\$955.00
Easter Decor .....	155.00
Votive Candles .....	35.10
	\$1,145.10

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (46); Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (52); (NS) 11:00 am (33)

**Presanctified Divine Liturgy & Annunciation Feast**

IV Lenten: Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (12);

IV Friday: Feast of the Annunciation — (MR) 9:00 am (4); (NS) w/Hramoty 6:00 pm (14)

IV Saturday: Feast of Annunciation Postfestive w/Hramoty — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (12)



**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**  
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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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

**The Sunday of St. John Climacus — March 27, 2022**



Lent IS A TIME TO  
**GROW**  
 CLOSER TO JESUS

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.
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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 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).*

March 27, 2022

**Seasonal Christian Greeting:** Volume XII, Number 13

**Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!**

**Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!**



## ST. JOHN CLIMACUS SUNDAY

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy**

**SUN., Mar 27** (28) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Deceased Simko & Buchko Families McCusker Family

**11:00 a.m. (NS)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Chrysostom Church, Pittsburgh, preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar 28 (29) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Josipa Opat Gataric Family  
(2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing)

Tue, Mar 29 (30) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Anna May Sejka Bunny Zavidny  
(1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 3/30)

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**Wed. Mar 30** (31) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours

**6:30 p.m. (MR)** Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

**7:00 p.m. (MR)** Presanctified Divine Liturgy



### Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Thrs, Mar 31 (32) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** Matins with Great Metanies  
**\*\*\*1:00 p.m. (MR)** + Andrew Kundrat (56<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/30) Theresa Kundrat

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

*First Friday in reparation of sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

**Fri, Apr 1** (33) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours

**6:00 p.m. (NS)** Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/Akathist



### AKATHISTOS SATURDAY

**Sat, Apr 2** (34) **\*\*\* 9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Fr. Ronald P. Larko Pirohi Workers

**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great — Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast**

**4:00 p.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

## The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy**

**SUN., Apr 3** (35) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Michael P. Harsh (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of pass. 4/1) Rippole Family

**11:00 a.m. (NS)** + Mary Sahayda (1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 4/1) Dgtr: Marlene "Mimi" Smith

**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Gregory Nanzianzus Church, Upper St. Clair, 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 29 – LEAH TRAPL; April 2 — Russell Sidun.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuas, 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.** I've been forgiven in confession of certain sins but find myself dwelling on them. Should I confess them again? **A. Answer by Catholic Apologist:** If you feel compelled to confess these absolved sins anew because you experience renewed feelings of guilt, we encourage you not to. Through the ministry of his priest, God has indeed absolved you of these past sins. However, absolution doesn't necessarily mean you will automatically be freed from all of the pain and guilt associated with those sins. When that pain and guilt resurfaces again, simply pray to God that you renew your sorrow for these sins, thank him for his forgiveness, and ask his continued help in your moving forward in the right direction. And persist in thanking God for his absolution when bad memories resurface. Again, the reality of God's forgiveness of our sins is not necessarily accompanied by an automatic and permanent feeling of peace. But with the help of God, his priests and related sacramental graces, and the help of others, you will in time more deeply experience his peace (see John 14:27).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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



**March 27 — April 2, 2022**

(MR): **In memory of Anna & Michael Goyda**

offered by Grand-Dgtr: Mary Ann Goyda

(NS): **In memory of Michael P. Harsh (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 4/1)**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2022

offered by Wife Beverly & Family

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2022



# McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME FOR TWO ADDITIONAL WEEKS — Here are the remaining Friday sales dates: 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.



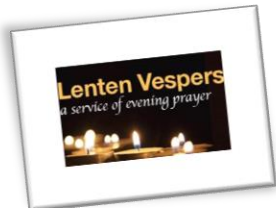
EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO DONATION TOTAL — Our Parish family collected a total of \$4,400.00. At the suggestion of our some of Pirohi Worker volunteers to our pastor that it would be very helpful that the first week of sales be donated to this worthy cause. Minus the expenses the amount totaled \$1,644.13. Our parish family has offered prayer and sacrificial monetary gift totaling \$6,044.13. The money was sent to the chancery office this past week who will see that its get to our Byzantine Catholic Church in Ukraine. Well done, good and faithful servants. May God remember the sacrifices that you made to our brothers and sisters in the Muchacho Eparchy.

## North Side Announcements

EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO DONATION TOTAL — Our Parish family also collected for the Eparchy of Mukachevo. For the size of our parish, we collected a total of \$3,230.00. A few donated substantial funds which is very admirable, but even smaller sacrificial gifts are deeply appreciated. The money was sent to the chancery office this past week who will see that its get to our Byzantine Catholic Church in Ukraine. Well done, good and faithful servants. May God remember the sacrifices that you made. May God remember the sacrifices that you made to our brothers and sisters in the Mukachevo Eparchy.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**CONTINUED SCHEDULE OF THE DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS** — *The Great*

*Fast Deanery Vespers* will continue 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 will host a week: (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 is 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.

**EXTRA CONFESSORS FORTHCOMING — Palm (Flowery) Sunday, April 10, 2022 following Passion Vespers (MR)** — Our pastor is conscripting another priest to aid him in hearing Confessions. *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins as we prepare for the salutary events of Holy Week & Easter!* Use this opportunity to fulfill your Easter Duty Precept! You may also make your confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T. A *Guide to Confession* is available in the narthex and vestibule of the Church.

## Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

**Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.  
Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. & Fridays (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.**

# Fourth Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

**Encouragement Sunday: Necessity of Prayer & Fasting (Mk. 9: 17-31)**

**"I do believe! Help my lack of trust!"** The healing of the possessed boy is one of



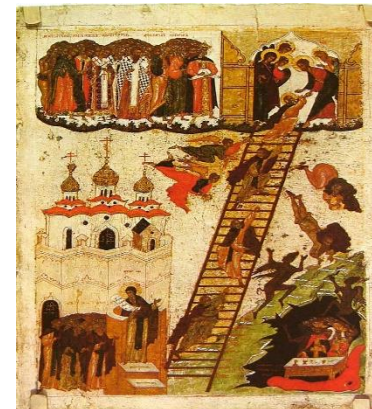
the longest miracle stories in Mark's Gospel (only the expulsion of the demons in 5: 1-20 is longer). It is also one of the more detailed stories, becoming a bit complicated in the repetition of some of those details (e.g., in v. 22 the father of the boy tells Jesus what he has *already* told him in v. 18; the crowd gathers twice within the same story. Despite its length and detail, there is a very clear and simple message that Mark wishes to convey: **Anything is possible to one who trusts, and trust is deepened by prayer and fasting!** Although Jesus is the one who heals the boy, it is the father's profession of faith that Mark holds up for his readers to imitate. Even in the most desperate

moments, when prayer and trust seem useless, Jesus invites his followers to go one step further and pray like the boy's father: "I do believe! Help my lack of trust!"

## The Ladder of Divine Ascent

The **Sunday of St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)** is the fourth Sunday of The Great Fast It commemorates St. John Climacus (+ 649 a.d.), the author of the work The Ladder of Divine Ascent.

Each of the Sundays of The Great Fast has a special theme. This Sunday's theme is St John's witness to the real spiritual struggle needed for entrance into God's Kingdom. It also is **encouragement** for the faithful to keep the goal of their Lenten efforts, for according to the Lord, *only "he who endures to the end will be saved"* (Mt 24:13). The Ladder describes how to raise one's soul and body to God through the acquisition of ascetic virtues. Climacus uses the analogy of Jacob's Ladder as the framework for his spiritual teaching. Each chapter is referred to as a "step", and deals with a separate spiritual subject. There are thirty Steps of the ladder, which correspond to the age of Jesus at his baptism and the beginning of his earthly ministry. Within the general framework of a 'ladder', Climacus' book falls into three sections. The first seven Steps concern general virtues necessary for the ascetic life, while the next nineteen (Steps 8-26) give instruction on overcoming vices and building their corresponding virtues. The final four Steps concern the higher virtues toward which the ascetic life aims. The final rung of the ladder—beyond prayer, stillness, and even dispassion is love. **Do you know where this icon is in our (MR) Church?**



**LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH MORE OFTEN!  
IT'S A GREAT SPIRITUAL INVESTMENT!!**

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## Including Holy Week & Easter

March 27 ..... IV Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Chrysostom Church, Greenfield @ 4:00 p.m.  
March 30 ..... **V LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — **NO MEAT.**  
..... Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00  
nan  
March 31 ..... Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m.  
April 1 ..... **V LENTEN 1<sup>st</sup> FRIDAY:** 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours.  
..... Pirohi Sales  
..... (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ chanting of the Akathistos Hymn  
April 2 ... 1<sup>st</sup> Akathistos Saturday imploring aid of the Theotokos in our ascetical practices (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
April 3 ..... Deanery Penitential Great Fast Vespers at St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair @ 4:00 p.m.  
April 6 ..... **VI LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (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. — **NO MEAT.**  
April 8..... **The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast** & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.  
**VI Lenten FRIDAY:** (MR) 8:00 a.m. 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours.  
..... (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.  
April 9 ..... Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
April 10 ..... Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies  
commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.  
... Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (April 11 through April 16)

Great & Holy Monday ..... (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.  
Great & Holy Tuesday ..... (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.  
..... (NS) Confessions @ 6:15 a.m.  
Great & Holy Wednesday ..... (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.  
**Great & Holy Thursday** ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.  
**Great & Holy Friday** . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

**(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm  
FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION**

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

## **ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)**

**Great & Holy Saturday** ..... (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR)  
Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m.

**Great & Holy Sat. Evening** ..... (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing of Paschal  
Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

**APRIL 17 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY**  
(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of  
Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by  
Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

## **SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICES THIS WEEK**

### **THE GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE W/GREAT METANIES**

In addition to the Presanctified Divine Liturgies this week, a Special Thursday liturgical Matinal (Morning) Prayer of the Church containing the Canon of this beloved Saint of the Byzantine Church is celebrated on the **5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of The Great Fast**. It is a poetic (cont.)

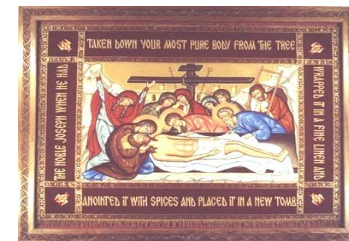
# General Announcements

(cont.) lamentation of a Christian soul who discovers how much God loves him. Several Great Metanies are made while saying **“Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!”** The beautiful liturgical service assists us in expressing our love to God and sorrow for our sins

**NEED FOR PUSSY WILLOWS FOR PALM SUNDAY** — We are going to need Pussy Willows for our Palm (Flowery) Celebration on the **weekend of April 9-10**. Hopefully they will be ready to be harvested. We could always use additional branches. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church Office.



**VIGIL TOMB WATCH SIGNUP SHEET NOW READY** — It has always been a long standing custom that following the Entombment Vespers on Holy & Great Friday, the Church remains open up to the Resurrectional Matins Holy Saturday evening to venerate the Most Pure Body of Our Savior in the Tomb. In today's environs, we must be very careful that the Church is protected from vandalism. The McKees Rocks Parish will attempt to carry on this beautiful and solemn practice IF we can get enough of people to keep vigil before the Tomb, especially throughout the night. A special poster is now available for signatures. This vigil is open and encourages both Parishes to participate. If you select a time slot, and someone else has signed, you may also sign in the same slot. It would be nice if a few individuals and/or families would share the same slots for safety reasons. If there aren't enough to register throughout the night, the Church will discontinue this tradition. So, please sign early so that we may know if this activity will become a true reality.



**MEN NEEDED TO HOLD CANDLES DURING PASSION GOSPELS** — On Holy & Great Friday morning during the Passion Matins w/reading of the Twelve Gospels, the tradition of the Church always had 12 men holding candles as the Passion of the Lord Jesus was being proclaimed. We sure would like to keep this meaningful and sacred custom alive. It is open to all men of both parishes to participate. Please register your name on the special sheet in the MR side vestibule or phone the Church Office. Let us honor Our Lord for all that He endured for our salvation and redemption.



**EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO DONATION COLLECTION** — The Western part of Ukraine at the base of the Carpathian Mountains is where our Ruthenian-Byzantine Catholic Church originated. It was one several eparchies founded by Saints Cyril and Methodius in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. This is the Mother Eparchy along with Presov, Slovakia that sent its priests to the U.S.A. to establish our Churches. We are indebted to them for such a sacrifice. Since the Mukachevo Eparchy is now part of Ukraine, they are being victimized by Soviet Aggression. The need our assistance of prayer and financial support. Last Sunday, our Archieparchal Parishes had taken a collection. Please refer to the particular announcements as to the totals that were sent to our chancery this past week. The need is great since many of its country's refugees have settle in the area.

