

**Parish Offerings – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – March 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 (\$1,521) YP (\$4) .....	\$1,525.00
Holy Days (\$5) Easter (\$100) Easter Decor (\$10) .....	115.00
Eastern European Churches .....	1,177.00
Votive Candles .....	127.45
	\$2,944.45

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering .....	\$713.37
Holy Days (\$10) Easter Decor (\$25) .....	35.00
Special Donation (In mem. of + George Hudanick, Sr. by Edward M. Goldston) .....	216.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvement (\$20) .....	40.00
Votive Candles (\$44.05) Eastern European Churches (\$65) .....	109.05

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$1,158.42

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (18);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (54); (NS) 11:00 am (27)

**Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

III Lenten: Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (20); Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (10)

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LIVE LENT  
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD**



**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
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Fax: (412) 331-6688  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
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Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
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**This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office**

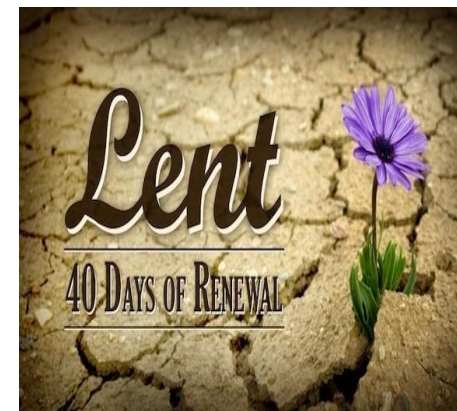
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

**CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY — March 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 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 20, 2022

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 12



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



## CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY

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

**SUN., Mar 20** (21) \*8:50 a.m. (MR) + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.  
\*10:50 a.m. (NS) + Jay Mowery Dgtr: Barbara "Babs"  
(6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/23)

**\*Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross prior to each weekend Divine Liturgy**

**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar. 21 (22) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Poor Souls in Purgatory Br. Regis, O.F.M.  
Tue, Mar 22 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Br. Thomas Sommerfield Family

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**Wed. Mar 23** (24) **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



Thrs, Mar 24 (25) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Yakeliv Anonymous  
(4<sup>th</sup> day of passing)

## FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION



**Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanlje — REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**Pope Francis Consecrates Russia & Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

**Fri, Mar 25** (26) **9:00 a.m.** (MR) + Ann Onesi (3<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing) Family  
**6:00 p.m.** (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes with reading of Hramoty

**Final Day of the Annunciation Feast — Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel**

**Sat, Mar 26** (27) **9:00 a.m.** (MR) All Souls w/ reading of Hramoty

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of St. John Climacus Sunday — Fourth Sunday of The Great Fast**

**4:00 p.m.** (MR) Living & Deceased of Petruna Family Julia Chambers

## 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..

# 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 20** – Andrew Sclicht, **Mar 22** – Margaret Beliuinas, Nicholas Rippole ; **Mar 24** – Richard Billy; **Mar 25** – Wallace Michalism, RUTH YANOSKO; **Mar. 26** – James Gunkel, AIMEE HELMS, Marlo Safi.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuinas, 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 Cifrulak, 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.** Is it wrong to receive Communion before committing a mortal sin? Suppose you know that you are going to be in a position where you may fall into committing a mortal sin. **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Church teaches that anyone conscious of a mortal sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before receiving Holy Communion. If you know you are going to be in a position where you may commit a mortal sin, you need to make a conscious effort to avoid those situations that tempt you. The strength to resist sin and break our disordered attachments comes from 1) frequent reception of the sacraments (e.g., confession, Eucharist) and 2) a disciplined prayer life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity wipes away venial sins. By giving himself to us Christ revives our love and enables us to break our disordered attachments to creatures and root ourselves in him. (CCC 1394).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**March 20 — March 26, 2022**

(MR): **In memory of Glee Hart** (3<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing 3/9)

offered by Mother-in-Law: Audrey Hart

(NS): **In memory of Jay Mowery** (6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/23)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2022

offered by Dgtr: Barbara "Babs"

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2022



# McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME FOR THE GREAT FAST — Here are the remaining Friday sales dates: Mar. 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.



ANNUAL BOILERS INSPECTION THIS PAST WEEK — Each year the church and school boiler systems are officially inspected. All passed except for a small unit in the church basement that heats the chapel and stairwell areas. We were issued a citation to have it replaced, and immediately contacted Matt Mertz Plumbing, Pittsburgh, who took care of the problem. A leaky safety pressure valve that was expelling a small amount of water was replaced and a boiler drain that was also slightly expelling water. Matt Mertz Plumbing replaced the parts according to the designated specs that were issued at the time of inspection. The total cost was \$515.00 .

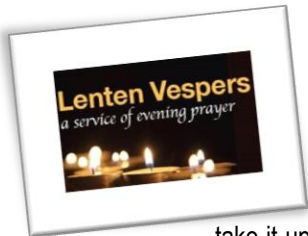


## North Side Announcements

**No Particular informational announcements for this week**

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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: (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. Vasyly 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.



## Pope Teaches Byzantine Form of the "Sign of the Cross"

At the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Leo IV, instructed his clergy to hold their fingers in the proper manner when blessing the Sacred Gifts, with two fingers outstretched, and the thumb hidden behind, between them, by which the Trinity is symbolized. He instructed that the people of the Faith should imitate the example of the Priests. By means of the Sign of the Cross to express the elements of our Faith. **The thumb and first two fingers joined together indicate belief in the Three Divine Persons as One God. The two remaining fingers lying in the palm of the hand to signify the Divine and the Human natures of Christ united in His One Person - Pope Leo IV (928 a.d.)**



## 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.

# EXPRESSING OUR PIETY & DEVOTION

Third Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Cross-Veneration Sunday: We Bow to Your Cross, O Master ....” (Mark 8: 34 – 9:1)

On the Third Sunday of The Great Fast, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates

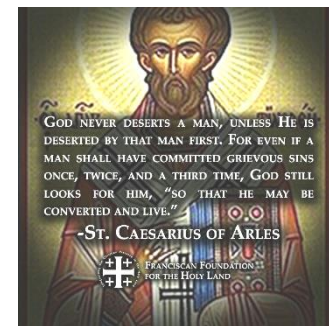


the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are

crucified with Christ. As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory. The Cross is a sign of the Triune God's unconditional love for us. **We express our piety and devotion to the Precious Cross on the tetrapod by making two profound bows with sign of the Cross over ourselves saying each time silently “O God be merciful to me a sinner,” venerate the Cross, and then making one more profound bow saying again, “O God be merciful to me a sinner.”**

## Explanation of Taking Up the Cross Daily

What does this mean, “take up a cross”? It means you will bear with whatever is troublesome, and in this very act you will be following Christ. When you begin to follow Christ according to His teaching and precepts, you will find many people contradicting you and standing in your way, many who will not only deride you but even persecute you. Moreover, this is true, not only of pagans who are outside the church, but also of those who seem to be in it visibly.... Although they glory in merely the title of Christian, they continually persecute faithful Christians. Such belong to the members of the church in the same way that bad blood is in the body. Therefore, if you wish to follow Christ, do not delay in carrying His cross; tolerate sinners, but do not yield to them. Do not let the false happiness of the wicked corrupt you. You do well to despise all things for the sake of Christ, in order that you may be fit for his companionship. St. Caesarius of Arles sermons 159.5.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 20 ...III Deanery Penitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 4:00 pm.  
 March 23 ..... **IV LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — **NO MEAT.**  
 ..... Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn  
 March 25 ..... **IV LENTEN FRIDAY:** — **Feast of the Annunciation:** (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.  
 (NS) **Feast of the Annunciation** followed by 4<sup>th</sup> All Souls Hramoty @ 6:00 p.m. — **NO MEAT.**  
 ..... Pirohi Sales.  
 March 26 ..... (MR) Synaxis Feast: Archangel Gabriel  
 followed by 4<sup>th</sup> Universal All Souls Hramoty (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.  
 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 nn  
 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.

## General Announcements

### Ukrainian Bishops welcome Pope's consecration of Russia and Ukraine to Mary by Devin Watkins

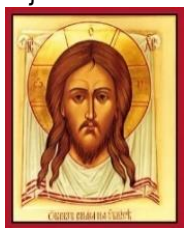
Several Ukrainian (including Carpatho-Ruthenian) Byzantine Rite Catholic Bishops welcome Pope Francis' decisions to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 25 March. Both Latin-rite and Byzantine-rite Catholic Bishops in Ukraine have expressed their gratitude to Pope Francis for his desire to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As Russia's invasion of neighboring Ukraine grinds on leaving many dead, the Holy See Press Office announced on Tuesday evening that the Pope will perform the **Act of Consecration on 25 March. The Consecration will take place during a Penitential Celebration in St. Peter's Basilica presided over by Pope Francis.**



The same Act of Consecration will be carried out on the same day by Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Papal Almoner, at the Marian Shrine in Fatima, Portugal. Pope's fatherly concern. Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, welcomed the news "in the midst of the tragedy of the bloody war in Ukraine". "This is a spiritual act long awaited by the people of Ukraine. Since the beginning of Russian aggression in 2014, Ukrainian (including Ruthenian) Catholics have been urgently requesting this Act to prevent the worsening of the war and the dangers coming from Russia."

*The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Council of Toledo in 656 mentions the Feast, and the Council in Trullo in 692 says that the Annunciation was celebrated during The Great Fast.*

**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 spiritually rewarding! Join us on (MR) Wednesday and (NS) Friday evenings. Consult the schedule for these special penitential services!



**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.

