

## Parish Offerings – Sunday of Zacchaeus — January 22, 2023

“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 (\$2,544) YP (\$11) .....	\$2,555.00
Holy Day .....	5.00
Initial (\$83) YP (\$1) B.C.W. (\$76) .....	160.00
Votive Candles .....	152.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,872.50

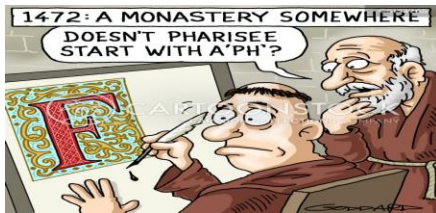
### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$299) YP (\$1) .....	\$300.00
Holy Day (\$10) Utilities (\$70) .....	80.00
B.C.W. ....	14.00
Votive Candles .....	41.50
	<hr/>
	\$435.50

## Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (31)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (75); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (24)



### 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

### DESIGNS BY NANCY

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North Side Parishioner

**Alan Valeriano**  
(412) 638-3417  
PA #172378

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## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — January 29, 2023



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 Mysteries 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.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: [c-rsmedia.org](http://c-rsmedia.org).

New & Returning Parishioners: Welcome! Please register by phoning the Church Office.

Remember the Church in Your Will: Please be so kind as 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).

January 29, 2023

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIII, Number 5



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



## Liturgical Schedule of the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>Sunday of the Publican &amp; Pharisee</b>			
<b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday</b>			
SUN, JAN 29	9:00 a.m. (MR)	Forgotten Souls in Purgatory	Jos. A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Robert J. Galida (45 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 1/21)	Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen



## Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs

### Simple Holy Day

Mon, Jan 30	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	+ Archpriest John G. Petro	Ann & Todd Wilson
Tue, Jan 31	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Ronald P. Larko	Bernadette & Jim Gunkel & Family
		<i>Prefestive of the Feast of the Encounter</i>	
Wed, Feb 1	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Myron Kundrat (12 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)	Theresa Kundrat

## ENCOUNTER OF THE LORD

**Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to Divine Liturgy — Mirovanije**

Thrs, Feb. 2	**8:50 a.m. (MR)	Special Intention	
	**5:50 p.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

**FREE SIMPLE ABSTINENCE** Meat is permitted on this day — First Friday of the month

Fri, Feb. 3	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John J. Koza, III (2 <sup>nd</sup> ann of passing)	Fr. Firko
Sat, Feb 4	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Sunday of Prodigal Son — 3<sup>rd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifurulak Florence & + Debbie Charochak

## Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN, Feb 5	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ann Muska (9 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/8)	Anonymous
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Esther M. Kallop (9 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/19)	Valeriano & Kallop Families

## 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:** Jan 29 — Gary Schilling; Jan 30 — Burt Cifurulak; Jan 31 — GARY MULLEN, DAMIAN TRAPL; Feb 1 — Karen Grzywinski; Feb 2 — Peggi Lucas, Rosemarie Nazak; Feb 4 — Madelyn Nazak, Kerri Poloka.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Belionas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier.

**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.  
**VETERANS HOSPITAL** (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.  
**THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE** (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifurulak. Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.  
**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALANAS.  
**CONCORDIA AT REBECCA RESIDENCE** (3746 Cider Ridge Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101): Irene Bordas.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** If you get married in Jamaica, can you come back to the States and have your marriage blessed by the Catholic Church? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Getting married in Jamaica is not an impediment to a valid marriage, and those who validly marry there are not required to travel to the United States in order to have their marriage blessed, or convalidated. Catholics are required to be married in the Church; if one marries outside the Church, whether in or out of the United States, then one's marriage will not be valid unless it is later convalidated. To deliberately marry outside of the Church and live as husband and wife is not a minor irregularity that one can always plan to straighten out later; it is a grave betrayal of our obligation as Catholics to live by the law of the Church and a sin against God, in whose eyes the marriage is nonexistent.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**Jan 29 — Feb 4, 2023**

(MR): In memory of Elizabeth & Michael Ference

offered by Dgtr: Patricia

(NS) In memory of John J. Koza, III (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 2/3)

(MR) Limited available for 2023

offered by Anonymous

(NS) Available for 2023



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner **William H. Bell, 74**, at his McKees Rocks home on Friday, January 13, 2023 following a lingering battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife: parishioner Diane (Shulter). Also, is survived by his children: parishioner, Kimberly (Ray) Zoldos, and David; also, by Sisters Elizabeth (Gene) Thomas and Patricia Peroni, and grandchildren and nephews Daniel, Matthew and Ryan. The Musmanno Funeral Home, Kennedy Township, handled the arrangements. A Funeral Panachida was offered at the funeral home on Friday, January 20th @ 12:00 noon. Interment followed at The National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Bell, Zoldos and Shulter Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant William, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



**PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME PRIOR TO HOLY WEEK** — It has been decided that the Pirohi Project will now continue sales on the following Friday dates: **Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 (no sales on Great Friday)**. We would appreciate additional 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. If you are able to place advertising posters, please take a few by the Church entrances. It will be greatly appreciated!**



**BYZAN-TEEN CANDY SALES NOW IN PROGRESS** — Our Byzan-TEEN Youth Group are now commencing fund raising event to prepare for the 2020 Youth Rally in California. Sarris Candy bars will now be available following the weekend Divine Liturgies this week for \$1.00. Let's assist them by purchasing candy bars!

## NORTH SIDE

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of parishioner **Diane V. Vida, 82**, at her North Side home on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. She is survived by her brother, Joseph (Donna) Vida along with several nieces and cousins. The Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, California Avenue, North Side handled the arrangements. A Funeral Panachida was offered at the funeral home on Monday, January 23rd @ 10:00 a.m. Interment followed at Highwood Cemetery. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Vida Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Diane, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!



**Economic Inflation has finally hit our 6-Day Votive Candles. Beginning on February 2, the Candle will increase to \$5.00. Currently, we are taking a slight loss in Candle revenue ☹️**

# TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

## PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 O 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.



## Pope Francis Speaks

**Summary of the Holy Father's recent words at St. Peter Square on Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, the desire to share with others the joy of the Gospel, we now consider how Jesus himself, our Teacher and Master, chose to present his message. In the synagogue of Nazareth, at the very beginning of his public ministry, the Lord revealed that, in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, he came to proclaim good news to the poor and a year of favor from the Lord (cf. Lk 4:16-21). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is thus, as the prophet foretold, a saving message that brings contagious joy, authentic freedom, the promise of spiritual rebirth as God's beloved sons and daughters, and definitive healing from the oppression of sin and death. We who, by God's grace, have put our faith in Jesus and experienced the transformative power of his word, are called not only to give thanks for this wondrous gift, but also to share it freely and joyfully with others. For Christ's followers, every day is thus a "time of grace" and a new opportunity to bear witness to the "good news" of God's gracious offer of mercy, forgiveness and new life in Jesus his beloved Son.

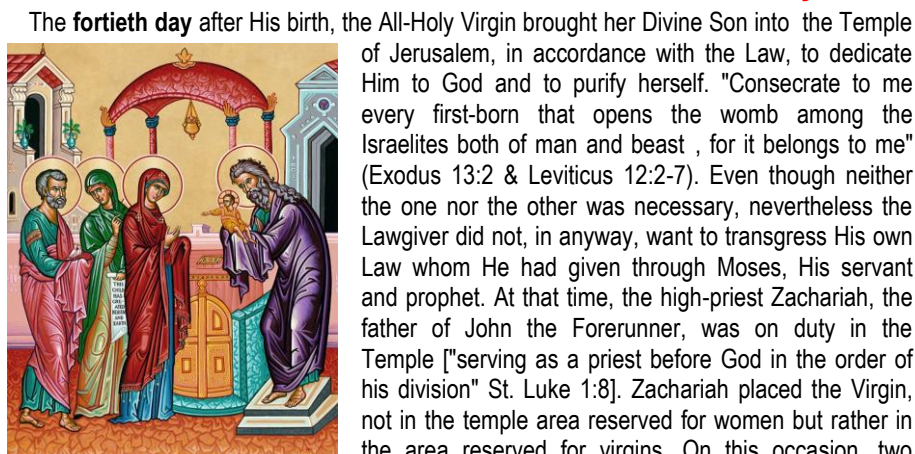


## Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 30 .....	Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs (Simple Holy Day).
February 2 .....	Feast of the Encounter of the Lord — Solemn Blessing of Candles.
February 4 .....	MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting in the Parish office @ 2:00 pm.
February 5 .....	NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
February 10-11 .....	First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.
February 19 .....	(MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
February 20 .....	<b>PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.</b> (MR) 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.
February 22 .....	<b>PURE WEDNESDAY:</b> (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.
February 24 .....	<b>PURE FRIDAY:</b> (MR) 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

## SOLEMN HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

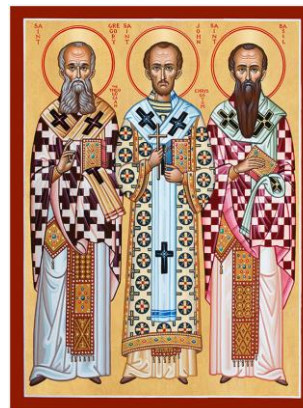
### The Encounter of the Lord – February 2



The fortieth day after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself. "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2 & Leviticus 12:2-7). Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver did not, in anyway, want to transgress His own Law whom He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zachariah, the father of John the Forerunner, was on duty in the Temple ["serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" St. Luke 1:8]. Zachariah placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion, two unusual persons appeared in the Temple: the Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: "Now, Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation" (St. Luke 2: 29-30). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" (St. Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayer recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One. The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zachariah because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this is the new king about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime, the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Encounter of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times but the solemn celebration of this day was established in the year 544 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

## General Announcements

**FEAST OF THE 3 HOLY HIERARCHS ON WEDNESDAY** — In the month of January, each of these saints has their own feast day. **St. Basil the Great, January 1; St. Gregory the**



**Theologian, January 25; and the transposition of the relics of St. John Chrysostom, January 27.** This combined feast day, January 30, was instituted in the eleventh century during the reign of Emperor Alexius Comnenus. At one time a debate arose among the people concerning who of the three is the greatest? Some extolled Basil because of his purity and courage; others extolled Gregory for his unequalled depth and lofty mind in theology; still others extolled Chrysostom because of his eloquence and clarity in expounding the Faith. Thus, some were called Basilians, others Gregorians, and the third were called Johannites. This debate was settled by Divine Providence to the benefit of the Church and to an even greater glory of the three saints. Bishop John of Euchite

(June 14) had a vision in a dream: At first, all three of these saints appeared to him separately in great glory and indescribable beauty, and after that all three appeared together. They said to him, "As you see, we are one in God and there is nothing contradictory in us; neither is there a first or a second among us." The saints also advised Bishop John that he write a common service for them and to order a common feast day of celebration. Following this wonderful vision, the debate was settled in this manner: **January 30** would be designated as the common feast of these three hierarchs. The Greeks consider this feast not only an ecclesiastical feast but their greatest national school holiday.

**SOLEMN BLESSING OF CANDLES THIS WEEK** — On Thursday, **Feb. 2**, we commemorate the Solemn Feast of THE ENCOUNTER OF THE LORD. The Righteous Simeon was promised by God that he would not pass onto eternity until he had first seen the Messiah in the flesh. It is a day that Byzantine Catholics acknowledge Jesus coming to ENCOUNTER His people. Christ is the revelation light to the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel. Jesus comes as the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. It is on this day that candles are solemnly blessed. Although the Church will provide candles, you may also wish to bring your own for the solemn blessing. **Please be advised: We start 10 minutes earlier for the Solemn Blessing.**



**INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE**— If MR Members would like a record of their 2022 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 narthex. Please discontinue using your 2022 envelopes. Your number may have changed!

**HOUSE BLESSING CONTINUE** — As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection which is of greater importance and most effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office and set up a time for the pastor's visitation.

