

## Parish Offerings – SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE – February 19, 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 (\$1,951) YP (\$10) .....	\$1,961.00
Holy Days .....	80.00
Initial .....	5.00
Votive Candles .....	269.95
	<hr/>
	\$2,315.95

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$607) YP (\$1) .....	\$608.00
Holy Days .....	25.00
Initial (\$8) B.C.W. (\$14) .....	22.00
Votive Candles .....	32.60

## Church Attendance Last Week \$687.60

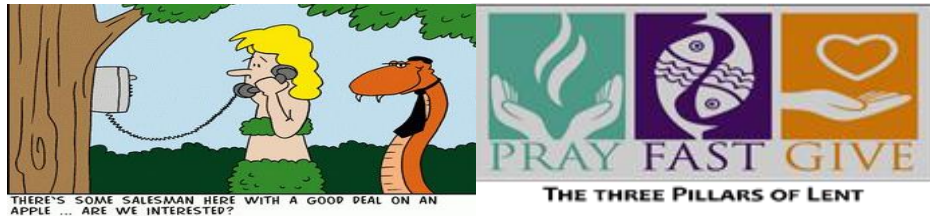
Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (39);

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

Forgiveness Vespers – (MR) 2:00 pm (14)

Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (13); (NS) 6:00 pm (8)

Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (17); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (8)



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

**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

**MY GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD**

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

**Nancy C. Debranski**  
Sewing, Alterations, Custom  
Embroidery and Unique Gifts

**GCU**  
Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
A Fraternal Benefit Society  
GCU offers Insurance and  
Annuity Benefits greater than  
most financial institutions. Info  
call Randy (412) 973-1085

**Handyman Services**  
North Side Parishioner  
**Alan Valeriano**  
(412) 638-3417  
PA #172378

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

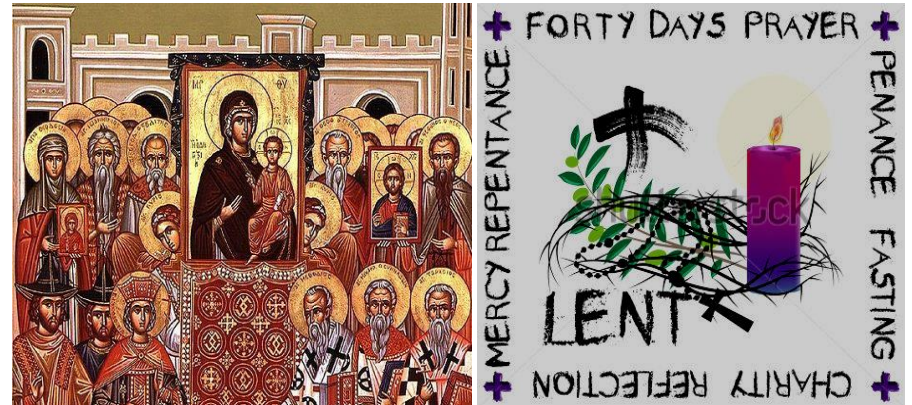
## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 — February 26, 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 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).*

February 26, 2023

**Seasonal Christian Greeting:** Volume XIII, Number 9

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



## THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

**SUN, Feb 26 (7)** 9:00 a.m. (MR) Cantor: + John Fejka (birthday 2/28) Dgtr: Susie  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ann M. Lecci (40<sup>th</sup> ann of pass. 2/23 & birthday 2/28) Joan Senchyshyn  
4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Pius X Church, Carrick  
preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..

Mon, Feb 27 (8) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Rosemarie (Oslick) Odem MaryEllen & John Oslick  
(9<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/26)

Tue, Feb 28 (9) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary K. Krisko Theresa Kundrat  
(36<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/22)

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

**Wed. Mar 1 (10)** 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours  
6:30 a.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary  
7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



Thrs, Mar 2 (11) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Carmella Mell (birthday) Dgtr: Regina

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

**Fri, Mar 3 (12)** 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/reading of Hramoty



## 2<sup>nd</sup> UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

**Sat, Mar 4 (13)** 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of Hramoty

\*\*\*\*\*

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

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Nicholas Nazak Wife: Rose & Family  
(30<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/3)

## THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

**SUN., Mar 5 (14)** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Chambers  
(12<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/25; birthday 2/26; wedding ann 2/28) Wife: Julia & Daughters  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop (birthday 3/7) Valeriano & Kallop Families  
4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Cathedral, Munhall 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:** Feb 26 – Helen Best, Joanne Stilwell, ALICE SLAGLE; Feb 28 – William Culan; Mar 1 – JAMES LASKO, Kimberly Ruud; Mar 4 – Leyte Tomchak.

## 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, GERALD SLAGLE, 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 Cifrutlak, Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.

**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.

**SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING** (900 Lincoln Club Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Irene Bordas.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**February 26— March 4, 2023**



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

offered by Regina Mell

(NS): **In memory of Eddy Seman**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2022

offered by Sister: Velma Seman

(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. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (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.*

AN ENORMOUS EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE — “If you were unable to attend the

Pirohi Workers Christmas Luncheon you may not be aware that **Judy and Ed Wovchko** have decided to step away as regular pirohi workers. Their willingness to volunteer for this worthy project has been invaluable and has not gone unnoticed by all who have worked with them. We want them to know how much their work is appreciated, and as well to know that they are welcome to “guest pinch” any time they would like. May God grant Judy and Ed many happy, healthy, and blessed years.” — submitted by Tam Revtai



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**. Also, you may purchase candy from their website: **[www.sarriscandies.com](http://www.sarriscandies.com)** and click on the **Fundraising tab**.

**Type in the Group ID # 10-3617. The Organization name is Holy Ghost Youth Group.** Orders are taken until April 2, 2023. A \$5.00 packaging fee will be applied. Let's assist them by purchasing candy bars!

## North Side Announcements

HIGH-LIGHTED SUBJECT MATTERS DISCUSSED AT LAST WEEK'S PAC/FAC MEETING — At the **February 5, 2023 Parish & Financial Advisory Councils Meeting following the Divine Liturgy**, the following agenda was discussed: (1) Annual 2022 Financial



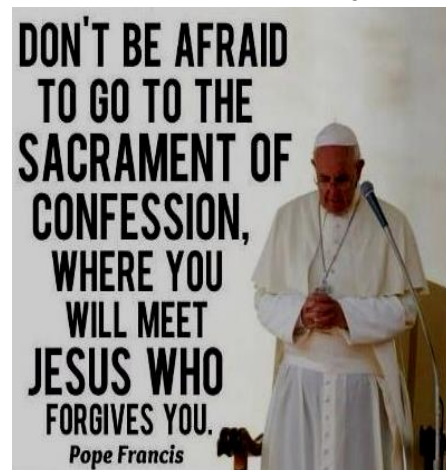
Statement was reviewed and accepted and will be distributed to the parishioners; (2) Bids are now being collected to repair the front Church steps. The past several winter seasons have caused the cement to deteriorate. We thank George Hudanick, Jr. who is gathering estimates; (3) The Church roof is in need of replacement. Bids are also being gathered to have it replaced. (4) The church lighting system is being replaced by LED bulbs for more efficient brightness and for cutting cost to the utility bill. Handling this project is Alan Valeriano, Leonard R. Kallop, Jr. (who is taking care of the personal cost), and Brad Spontak all to whom we are most

grateful; and (5) Church Tower Bells are in need of repair. Unfortunately, we haven't had the bells ring for several years. We are searching alternatives from the White Clock Bell Company to see what the best possible option will be for the Church; and (6) our Church Picnic will resume this year at the usual site in Robinson Township on Sunday, July 23, 2023. You are asked to mark the date; and (7) Beginning in June, Holy Day times will be reversed between the two parishes — The morning will be at the North Side, and the evening in McKees Rocks.

## 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. Its 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 1 .....PENITENTIAL 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.  
 March 3 ... PENTENTIAL FRIDAY: (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — Pirohi Friday Sale.  
 March 4 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.  
 March 8 **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10 ..... **LENTEN FRIDAY:** (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty Lenten Pirohi Sales.  
 March 11 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m  
 March 12 ..... Daylight Savings Time begins.  
 March 15 **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 17 ..... **LENTEN FRIDAY:** (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty Lenten Pirohi Sales.

## Faith Event of the Week

### The Triumph of True Worship Celebrated Today

#### Commemorated on the First Sunday of The Great Fast

A "guiless image" is so important in our relationship with God as in Nathaniel's case. An Icon (meaning "image") depicts a guiless 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.**

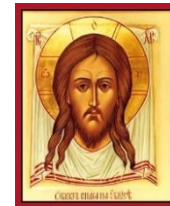
**(MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.;**

**(NS) Friday Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.**

## General Announcements

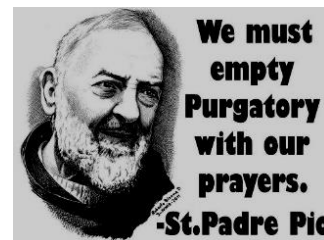
**LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH AN EXTRA TIME** – And just not on the weekend!

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 once again 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.

**UPCOMING EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS** – The *Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis* of USCCB has been preparing for the **National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024 in Indianapolis, IN**. The registration session is available up to the end of June 2023. The price is \$350.00. Please remember that the registration fee does not include travel expenses, housing reservations, and accommodation. Please sign the signup sheet. The payment should be remitted to the Archeparchy through the Church Office. I would like to encourage you to get it done as soon as possible so Archeparchy would have enough time to confirm the reservation.



**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 selected to host a week: (1) **February 26, 2023** — **St. Pius X Church, Carrick, PA** – Homilist: **Very Reverend Fr. Andrew Deskevich**; (2) **March 5** – **Saint John Cathedral, Munhall, PA** – Homilist: **Fr. Valerian Michlik**; (3) **March 12** – **St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia, PA** – Homilist: **Fr. Myron Kerul-Kmec**; (4) **March 19** – **Saints Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne, PA** – Homilist: **Fr. Michael Kunitz**; and (5) **March 26** – **Saints Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum, PA** – Homilist: **Very Reverend Fr. Frank A. Firko**. 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.