

## Parish Offerings – Sunday of Meat-Fare — February 12, 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 (\$1,781) YP (\$14) | \$1,795.00 |
| Holy Day                             | 25.00      |
| Initial                              | 28.00      |
| Votive Candles                       | 156.00     |
|                                      | <hr/>      |
|                                      | \$2,004.00 |

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Regular Offering (\$719) YP (\$1) | \$720.00 |
| Holy Day                          | 10.00    |
| Improvement                       | 30.00    |
| Votive Candles                    | 96.50    |
|                                   | <hr/>    |

## Church Attendance Last Week \$856.50

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (37)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (61); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)

1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Comm. — Fri, Feb 11 (NS) @ 6:00 pm (2); Sat, Feb 23 (MR) @ 9:00 am (13)



### 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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year**



North Side Parishioner

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



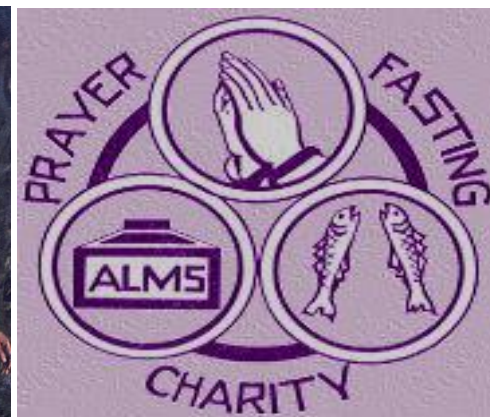
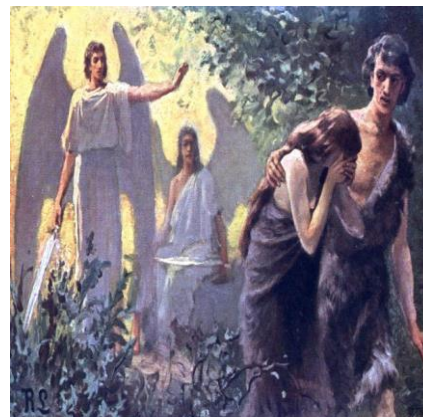
## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE

The 5<sup>th</sup> & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 19, 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-Canas 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.

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 and a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!

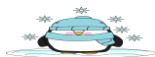
# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

. 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 19, 2023 Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIII, Number 8



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



## Liturgical Schedule of the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### Sunday of Cheese-Fare

#### The 5<sup>th</sup> & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday

#### Forgiveness Sunday

SUN, Feb 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret Kurtanich (birthday 2/21) Children & Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Fr. Charles M. Yastishock (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

2:00 p.m. (MR) Forgiveness Vespers w/anointing of Oil of Gladness  
Initiating The Great Fast Season.

#### BEGINNING THE HOLY & GREAT 40 DAYS FAST

REQUIRED Day of STRICT ABSTINENCE — NO MEAT OR DAIRY PRODUCTS PERMITTED

PURE MON, Feb 20, (1) 9:00 a.m. (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours



6:00 p.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies

\*\*\* Holy Communion will be distributed at both Penitential Services

PURE TUE, (2) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Nevaldo Mell (7<sup>th</sup> ann of pass. 2/26)

Dgtr: Regina

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE WED, Feb 22 (3) 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

PURE THRS, Feb 23 (4) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Eisenman Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE FRI, Feb 24 (5) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours



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

Commemoration of the Miracle of the Holy Great-Martyr Theodore Tyro

PURE SAT, Feb 25 (6) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Triumph of True Worship — First Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Margaret Dubensky (5<sup>th</sup> ann of pass 2/26) Son: Thomas

## 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

## 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 20 – Monica Lemesh, John Marks; Feb 21 – Michael Muska; Feb 23 – Harper Kovacs, Sawyer Kovacs;

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTI, KIRK LATTI, 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 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 do we praise God? Answer from a Catholic Apologist: Imagine someone who never grew up being told to say thank you. Such a person would never be really be appreciative of anything he received in life because he would simply expect it to be done. He would have no appreciation for the hard work, sacrifices, or generosity of others. And while others might simply shrug off his lack of appreciation, he missing out on a part of life that comes from appreciating others and being grateful for what we receive. The Anaphora at the Divine Liturgy speaks well when it states: "Let us give thanks to the Lord." We give praise first and foremost because it is right to praise God's goodness. After all, God could be less merciful and still be perfectly just. The praise we give to God is partly our just duty to God but also helps to keep us mindful of God's goodness and love. If we fail to appreciate God's goodness and mercy and fail to grasp his generosity in our lives, we stunt our spiritual growth. We would risk falling into the sin of presumption and losing our salvation.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Feb 19 — Feb 25, 2023

(MR): In memory of Irene & Alex Bilak, Jr.

offered by Grandson: Mike Tomchak

(NS) In memory of Helen (Seman) Lucy (birthday 2/9)

(MR) Limited available for 2023

offered by Sister: Velma

(NS) Available for 2023



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**PIROHI PROJECT RESUMES THIS WEEK** — Pirohi Sales will begin this week and continue Lenten Season 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!**



### HIGH-LIGHTED SUBJECT MATTERS DISCUSSED AT LAST WEEK'S PAC/FAC MEETING —



At the **February 4, 2023 Parish & Financial Advisory Councils Meeting @ 2:00 p.m.**, the following agenda was discussed: (1) Annual Financial Statement was reviewed and accepted and will be distributed to the parishioners; (2) E.C.F. Religious Education will be preparing for the Corporate Communion of one girl at the North Side Parish on May 7 since she is a member there; (3) A sturdy medal door will soon be replaced in the basement by Scherer Locksmith following the repair of the upper lintel beam structure; (4) Forthcoming repair of a new roof over the side entrance to the church. It has been in existence for over 30 year and now has been causing water damage near the basement's secondary elevator and has been leaking water into the car ports; (5) Church Tower Bells are now functioning with future updating of older parts; (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.

**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 **Findraising** 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

**DUE TO A LACK OF SPACE IN THIS ISSUE, SUBJECT MATTERS DISCUSSED AT LAST WEEK'S PAC/FAC MEETING WILL APPEAR IN NEXT SUNDAY'S EDITION OF THE S.O.T.**

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## FINAL REMINDER: PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS

The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Canam Program for the Archeparchy once each year. This year's two-part Pre-Canam Program is **March 4 and 18**. Couples planning to marry this year **must fulfill** both parts of these two Saturday sessions. The program addresses topics pertinent to couples' future lifestyle and concludes on the second Saturday with Presentation of Certificates. Sessions will discuss the following topics: communication, sexuality and relationships, Byzantine spirituality and prayer, natural family planning, finances and budgeting, experiences of marriage and theology of marriage/Crowning Ceremony. **Contact the Archieparchial Office of Religious Education for more information (412) 322-8773.**

# TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

**The 5<sup>th</sup> & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — Beginning the Penitential Journey with the right Attitude & Disposition (Matthew 6: 14-21)**

### What do we mean by "Cheese-fare" and to "Give Up?"

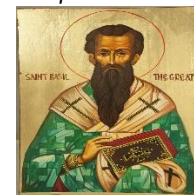
**Cheese-fare Sunday** indicates a farewell to dairy products just as last week's Meat-



Fare said farewell to meat products until Resurrection Sunday. As in the early Christian Church dairy products and meat were no longer eaten throughout The Great Fast Season and throughout Holy Week. Although mandatory Church laws have been abrogated as to its obligatory nature, it still encourages us to do penance the days prescribed (Pure Monday & Great Friday); and NO MEAT on Wednesdays and Fridays. Most importantly, we are all called to Fast from SIN and GIVE UP negativity by PUTTING ON virtue and being positive. Today, the Church invokes us to remember what participation in sin

did — expelling Adam and Eve from Paradise. It will also keep us from entering the heavenly kingdom.

**ST. BASIL THE GREAT ON FASTING:** *"There is both a physical and a spiritual fast. In the physical fast the body abstains from food and drink. In the spiritual fast, the faster abstains from evil intentions, words and deeds. One who truly fasts abstains from anger, rage, malice, and vengeance. One who truly fasts abstains from idle and foul talk, empty rhetoric, slander, condemnation, flattery, lying and all manner of spiteful talk. In a word, a real faster is one who withdraws from all evil. As much as you subtract from the body, so much will you add to the strength of the soul. By fasting it is possible both to be delivered from future evils and to enjoy the good things to come."*



### 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.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 19 ..... (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.  
 February 20 ..... **PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.**  
 (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 ..... PURE 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.  
 February 24 ..... PURE FRIDAY: (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. — Pirohi Friday Sale.  
 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.

## Saint of the Week

### Miracle of St. Theodore Tyro on Pure Saturday

Fifty years after the death of St Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians. Knowing that Christians would be hungry after fasting through Pure Week, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of The Great Fast to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. St Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva). In memory of this occurrence, the Byzantine Catholic Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of The Great Fast. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by St John of Damascus, may be sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great-Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of The Great Fast was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397). In imitation of this ancient custom be creative many have made this Lenten dish to strengthen them during the course of the Holy and Great 40 days Fast.



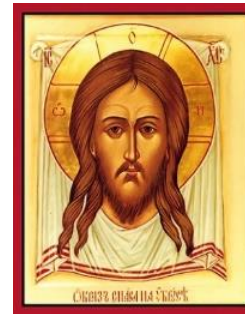
### Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

**Wednesdays not Fridays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.**

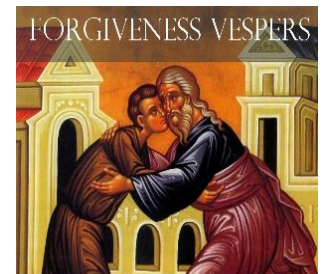
**NO MEAT OR DAIRY PRODUCTS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

## General Announcements

**LENTEN REGULATION FOR THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN CHURCH** — The following are the Lenten Regulations for The Archeparchy.: The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept....: **SIMPLE ABSTINENCE:** All the faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are bound to abstain from meat. *Simple Abstinence (no meat) is obligatory on all WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS of The Great Fast.* **STRICT ABSTINENCE** (No Meat or Dairy Products) is to be observed on the first day of The Great Fast — **PURE MONDAY, February 20 and on Holy & Great Friday, April 7.** If you are unable to keep either abstinence for a just cause, you are to seek a dispensation from the pastor.



**FORGIVENESS VESPERS THIS AFTERNOON** — Today, February 19, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. in McKees Rocks, we will gather to bring in the Penitential Season of The Great Fast. **Anointing with the oil of gladness will be administered to strengthen us on the Lenten Journey.** Please set aside this time and join us as we embark in this season of penance. Also, following the (MR) Penitential Hours on Monday @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) Great Compline @ 6:00 p.m., Holy Communion will also be distributed along with the Oil of Gladness.



**LAST WEEK TO SCHEDULE HOUSE BLESSING** — The Great Fast Season is rapidly coming upon us. Our pastor would like to conclude all house blessings before the Great Fast.. If it's not possible except during the Lenten Season that's quite alright, but at least schedule it by phoning the church office A.S.A.P. It is highly recommended to have your house blessed.



**CALCULATING 40 DAYS OF LENT IN THE BYZANTINE RITE** — From Pure Monday, February 20 to Palm Friday, March 31 constitute the 40 days of the Great Fast. Holy Week is not part of the Great Fast Season. The 40 days prepare us to cleanse our souls and bodies from sin so that from Lazarus Saturday (April 1) we are made worthy to walk vicariously with Our Lord in the remaining 8 days (especially through the special liturgical church services) we may comfort our Lord through His salutary Passion, Death, Entombment and Radiant Resurrection. Let us all individually and collectively take a more serious approach in this part of our relationship to our Awesome Triune God.