

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Prodigal Son — February 5, 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 (\$2,955) YP (\$12)	\$2,967.00
Holy Day (\$207) YP (\$6)	213.00
Coffee Social	51.75
Votive Candles (\$309.50) Initial (\$10)	319.50
	<hr/> \$3,551.25

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$793.05) YP (\$1)	\$794.05
Holy Day	20.00
B.C.W. (\$14) Initial (\$10) Improvement (\$70)	94.00
Votive Candles	62.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$970.05

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (29)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (68); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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year**



North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

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bring you this weekly &
informative S.O.T. without
incurring an added expense to
the Church. New Sponsors
please contact Church office.**



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 12, 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 – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY

Liturgical Services LIVE: 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.

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.

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).

February 12, 2023




Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIII, Number 7



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



Liturgical Schedule of the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
 SUN, Feb 12	9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elsie + Francis Eberle (<i>birthday</i>) 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Julia + Andrew Kittan	Sunday of Meat-Fare The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday	 Dgtr: Mary Lynn Family
Mon, Feb 13	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Dolores Kurtanich (<i>40th day of passing 2/2</i>)	Anonymous
Passing of St. Cyril, Co-Equal to the Apostles & Teacher of the Slavs — St. Valentine's Day			
Tue, Feb 14	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mosko Family	Julia Ann & George F. Mosko
Wed, Feb 15	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Sheahanah Family	Br. Regis, O.F.M.
Thrs, Feb. 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joseph Stempkowski	Niece: Christine & Al Barnash
	REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (<i>no meat</i>) or Equivalent Penance (<i>your choice</i>) <i>for reparation for the sins of abortion & the destructive sin of racism in our country</i>		
Fri, Feb. 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ann M. Lecci (<i>40th day of passing 2/23 & birthday 2/28</i>)	Son: Jeno, Nancy & Nina
Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics			
Sat, Feb 18	9:00 a.m. (NS)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for Sunday of Cheese-Fare – 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Dolores Kosko	Irene Bordas & Family



SUN, Feb 19

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret Kurtanich (birthday 2/21) Children & Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Fr. Charles M. Yastishock (5th ann of passing)
2:00 p.m. (MR) *Forgiveness Vespers w/anointing of Oil of Gladness*
Initiating The Great Fast Season.

Sunday of Cheese-Fare

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday

Forgiveness Sunday

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 7 – THERESA FECIK; Feb 13 – Charles Sell; Feb 15 – Kurt Marks, PAUL BODNARCHUK; Feb 16 – James Schelling; Feb 17 – Theodore Babin, Linda Chomko, Julie Kutchmark.

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 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 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. Can I have a Mass (Divine Liturgy) said for the repose of the soul of my Protestant friend? And what happens to my prayers if he or she is in heaven already or, God forbid, hell? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** You can, and should, have a Mass (Divine Liturgy) said for your Protestant friend, or anyone for that matter. If the one we are praying for is in heaven, he is not in need of our prayers. If he is in hell, no prayer can benefit him. But because the Church does not presume to know if any particular soul is damned, we are not to judge but to pray. The rest is up to God. Only God judges the heart (cf. 1 Sm 16:7).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Feb 12 — Feb 18, 2023

(MR): **In memory of Hubal, Bordas & Stefanick Families**
offered by Hubal Family

(NS) **In loving memory of Infant Vivianne Grace Trapl**
(5th ann of pass 2/12)

(MR) Limited available for 2023

offered by Dad, Mom & Sister

(NS) Available for 2023

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Mary “Mae” E. Gegogine, 97**, of Oil City, PA on Sunday, February 5, 2023 at Good Samaritan Hospice, Beaver, PA. She was living with her daughter and family for the past several years. She is survived by three children and several grandchildren. She is the mother of parishioners, Cynthia (Mark) Saber, and grandchildren, Scott and Laura. The Reinsel Funeral Home, Oil City handled the arrangements. A Funeral Service was conducted by her minister from Trinity Methodist Church at the funeral home on Feb. 9 at 12:00 noon followed by the interment at Ryns Farm Cemetery. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Gegogine and Saber Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Mary “Mae”, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat’!

PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME IN TWO WEEKS — Pirohi Sales will begin during the 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!**



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** 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

No Particular Announcements at this time

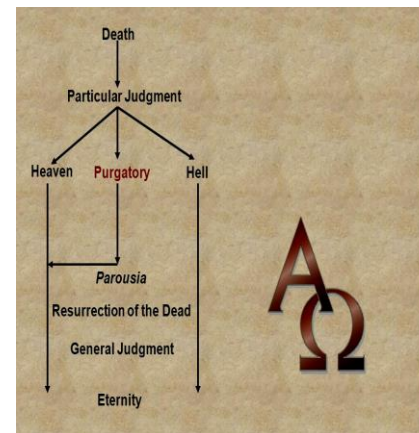
SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS STILL REMAINING — If you are interested in sponsoring a Sanctuary Lamp that continues to burn before the True Eucharistic Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ each week, please contact the Church office.. This is a great gift in remembering your departed loved ones or perhaps expressing thanksgiving for favors received or simply requesting a special intention from Divine Providence.

Today’s Gospel Meditation

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST (Matthew 25: 31-46)

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — Evidence of REPENTANCE is EXPRESSED COMPASSION

What do we mean by “Meat-Fare”? — Meat-Fare Sunday indicates a farewell to meat inasmuch as in the early Christian Church meat was no longer eaten from this time on throughout The Great Fast season (today is comparable to Marti Gras of the Western Church).



In the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe, the season of The Great Fast the Byzantine Catholic Ruthenian (Rusyn) faithful practiced “strict abstinence” (no meat and dairy products) for the entire Lent including Holy Week. Being an agrarian society with harsh weather conditions, a minimal amount of labor was performed, and a greater concentration was given to the Holy Fast. However, even in our technologically advanced American society, we must make time to participate in The Great Fast services

and maintain at least minimal fasting practices if we have the desire to express our love for the Lord. In this spirit, the Byzantine Catholic Church sets before us today the Last or “Terrible Judgment.” Those, whom the Church was unable to convert through its instruction on the mercy of God in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, are now presented with the fear of hell in an attempt to affect them. The liturgical services are designed to fill us with salutary fear and sorrow for our sins. One of the requisites for repentance is the law of love by which Christ at His Judgment will measure all of us. Jesus describes in detail the Terrible or Final Judgment. Compassion and mercy were branded by early philosophers as weakness, but in reality they are the signs of a nobility of heart. Christ has taught us that all those who are filled with love for Him should realize that whatever they do for the poor and the afflicted is done for Him. In describing the Last Judgment, we are led to hope for mercy if we have been charitable to our neighbors. We must always realize that our Lord is merciful in the highest degree, but He is also just.

PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS

The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Canan Program for the Archeparchy once each



year. This year’s two-part Pre-Canan 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 for more information (412) 322-8773.**

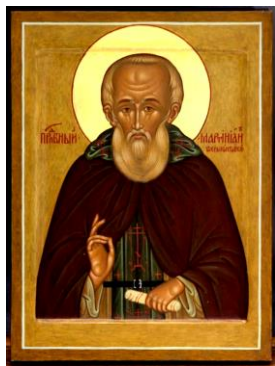
Calendar of Upcoming Events

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) 1st & 3rd 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) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.;
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 February 24 **PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd 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) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @
 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 March 3 ... **PENTENTIAL FRIDAY:** (MR) 6th & 9th Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine
 Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — Pirohi Friday Sale.

Saint of the Week

Our Venerable Father Martinian of Caesarea

February 13



Saint Martinian went to live in the wilderness at the age of eighteen, not far from the city of Caesarea in Palestine. For twenty-five years, he devoted himself to ascetic deeds and silence, and he was granted the gift of healing illnesses and casting out demons. However, the Enemy of the race of man would not stop bothering the hermit with various temptations. Once a profligate woman made a wager with some dissolute people that she could seduce Saint Martinian, the fame of whose virtuous life had spread throughout the city. She came to him one night pretending that she had lost her way in the storm, and asking for shelter. The saint let her enter, unable to turn her away in such a storm. He went into his room and locked the door. The wicked guest changed into beautiful clothes and began to tempt the ascetic.

When morning came, Saint Martinian came out to send the woman away. Though he was tempted by the woman's beauty, he was determined not to fall into sin. Lighting a fire, he stepped into it, saying, "You want me to burn with temptation, and want to lead me into the fires of Hell. I will not let you. Instead, I will burn for my virginity and save my soul." The woman came to see how evil she was. She repented and asked the saint to guide her onto the way of salvation. He told her to go to Bethlehem, to Saint Paula (January 26). There she lived as a nun for twelve years in strict asceticism until her blessed end. The woman's name was Zoe. Saint Martinian went to an uninhabited rocky island, and lived on it under the open sky for several years, nourished by the provisions brought by a certain sailor from time to time. In return the monk wove baskets for him. Once a powerful storm wrecked a ship, and a woman named Photina floated on pieces of the wreckage to the island of Saint Martinian. Saint Martinian helped her to survive the island. "Remain here," he told her, "for here is bread and water, and in two months a boat will come." Then he jumped into the sea and swam off. Two dolphins carried him to dry land. Thereafter, Saint Martinian led the life of a wanderer. Later, he came to Athens and fell ill. Sensing the approach of death, he went into church and lay upon the floor. God revealed to the Bishop of Athens who Saint Martinian was, and the bishop buried his body with honor. This occurred around the year 422.

General Announcements

SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES STILL AVAILABLE — It is an ancient tradition of our Byzantine Catholic Church to have candles solemnly blessed on February 2, the *Feast of the Encounter of the Lord with Simeon*. The Solemn Blessing of Candles symbolize "Christ the True Light that has come into the world." Candles are still available for purchase following the Divine Liturgy. Every home should have a blessed candle to be used throughout the year such as on anniversaries of Baptism, Chrismation, First Eucharist, Wedding Anniversaries, passing of a loved one, storms, etc.



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 COMING TO AN END — The Great Fast Season is rapidly coming upon us. Our pastor would like to conclude all house blessings before the Great Fast.. It is highly recommended to have your house blessed. Please contact the Church office and schedule.



FINALIZED 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.



Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

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