

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Publican & Pharisee — January 30, 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 (\$1,914) YP (\$7)	\$1,921.00
Holy Day	115.00
Special Donation (Anonymous)	5,000.00
Votive Candles (\$161.25) Initial (\$18) B.C.W. (\$28)	207.25
	<hr/> \$7,243.25

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$725) YP (\$1)	\$726.00
Holy Day	50.00
B.C.W. (\$14) Initial (\$10)	24.00
Votive Candles	34.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$834.00

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (30)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (74); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)

3 Holy Hierarchs — Jan 30 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (4); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (4)

Encounter of the Lord — Feb 2 (MR) 8:50 a.m. (16); (NS) 5:50 p.m. (18)



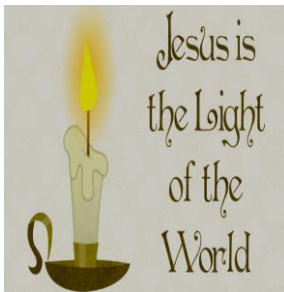
Valerian F. Szal

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McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Phone: (412) 331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



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North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

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



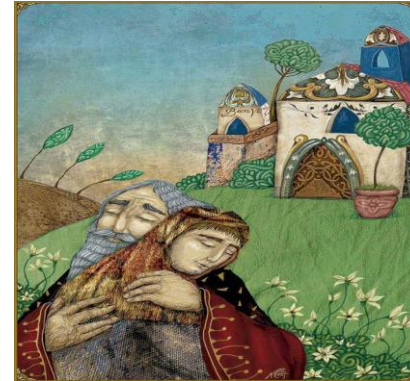
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 5, 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-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.

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, 5 2023




Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIII, Number 6



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



Liturgical Schedule of the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
Sunday of the Prodigal Son			
The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — Postfestive of Encounter			
SUN, Feb 5	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ann Muska (9 th ann of passing 2/8)	Anonymous
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Esther M. Kallop (9 th ann of passing 2/19)	Valeriano & Kallop Families
Mon, Feb 6	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Susan Gramata Cusatis (7 th ann of passing 2/5)	Eleanor Gramata & George
			
Tue, Feb 7	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Annamae Smyda (3 rd ann of passing)	MaryEllen & John Oslick
Wed, Feb 8	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ann Onesi	Dgtr: Bonnie & Mark Stevens
			
	Final Day of the Feast of the Encounter		
Thrs, Feb. 9	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Debra Charochak	Frances Blumling
			
	REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) <i>for reparation for the sins of abortion & the destructive sin of racism in our country</i>		
Fri, Feb. 10	8:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

	6:00 p.m. (NS)	First Universal All-Souls w/reading of Hramoty	
First Universal All Souls Saturday			
Sat, Feb 11	9:00 a.m. (MR)	First Universal All-Souls w/reading of Hramoty	

	Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Meat-Fare — 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday		
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Alex Bilak, Jr. (birthday 2/20)	Grandson: Mike Tomchak
Sunday of Meat-Fare			
The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday			
SUN, Feb 12	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elsie + Francis Eberle (birthday)	Dgtr: Mary Lynn
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Julia + Andrew Kittan	Family



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 8 – Peggy McCusker; Feb 11 – Beatrice Stempkowski.

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.
CONCORDIA AT REBECCA RESIDENCE (3746 Cider Ridge Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101): Irene Bordas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is feminism compatible with the Catholic Faith? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** It depends on what you mean by feminism. If you mean women should have the same basic human rights as men, then certainly Catholic teaching agrees (Genesis 1:27; CCC355). However, if by feminism you mean that there should be no social distinctions between men and women or that women must be ordained to the priesthood, then the answer is “no.” This view is typically called “secular” or radical feminism.” They hold views that are actually contrary to true feminine dignity. For example, a woman’s ability to conceive and bear children is a wonderful gift from God. Yet, many radical feminists view childbearing as a burden or in convenience. They often support abortion, contraception, and homosexuality, things that actually degrade women.

This Week’s Sanctuary Lamps

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



Feb 5 — Feb 11, 2023

(MR): In memory of Paul “Bob,” Debbie & Diane Charochak

offered by Wife & Mother: Florence Charochak

(NS) In memory of George Fecik

(MR) Limited available for 2023

offered by Anonymous

(NS) Available for 2023

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

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!



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS NOW LOCATED IN CHURCH OFFICE — There are still several envelope boxes waiting for pickup. Should you wish to take them, please contact the Church office. We will be glad to assist you. Also, if you are in need of envelopes and calendars, and currently do not have any, contact the Church office at this time.

NORTH SIDE

PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of meeting on **following today's Sunday Divine Liturgy**. Major agenda is the 2022 Church Financial Report. Please be in attendance.

TENTATIVE 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 tentatively selected to host a week. The schedule will be definitive following the Protopresbytery Meeting on Feb. 7. (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, 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.

Today's Gospel Meditation

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

The 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday — THE RETURN BACK to the Father (Luke 15: 11-32)

Who does not know this parable from the Gospels? Even non-Christians use the expression "like the prodigal son." But how often do we really understand it? By



our sins, but even more by our forgetfulness, we distance ourselves from God and His Kingdom, we go off alone to "a far country." We waste the talents which God has given us. And we become spiritually impoverished; we begin to be in want. This is unavoidable; we were created for God's Kingdom, so we are not capable of being truly happy and satisfied anywhere else. But we are afraid to turn to God, so we seek happiness and satisfaction from transitory things which can never satisfy us.

Returning back to (God) the Father in repentance will assure us of salvation. We must remember the heavenly city which is the goal of our pilgrimage. We must realize that in this world we are all exiles, we are all "displaced" from our true Home in the Heavenly Kingdom. That gift of memory, of understanding of our situation, enables us to resolve, like the Prodigal Son: "I will get up and go back to my Father!" With this realization, we resolve to make the effort during The Great Fast, to travel this spiritual road back to the Heavenly Kingdom. It is not easy; it will take time and energy, and sometimes we shall be tired and weary. But we will not be alone; Jesus is with us, and so are all the Saints, and the Father is awaiting us with a loving, joyful welcome.

1ST UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

This coming Saturday marks the first of 5 All Souls Commemoration in our Liturgical Life. One prior to The Great Fast, three during Lent, and one the day prior to Pentecost Sunday. At this week's first commemoration we pray that all departed loved ones may return from the state of purgation to our Heavenly Father who awaits them perfectly sanctified just as the prodigal returned to his father in today's Gospel. It is the constant teaching of the Church since Apostolic times that our prayers, offerings and good deeds can help the departed. All the early Liturgies of the Church, contain a prayer for the departed. In the Divine Liturgies of St. Basil the Great (d. 379) and St. John Chrysostom (d. 407) prayers for the deceased are included. St. John Chrysostom interprets this in these words: ...Not in vain did the Apostles order that remembrance should be made of the dead in the awesome Mysteries (i.e. the Divine Liturgy). They knew that great gain resulted to them (the deceased), and great benefit. For when the whole assembly (of the people) stands with uplifted hands and that awesome Sacrifice lies displayed, how shall we not prevail with God by our entreaty for them? And this we do for those who have departed in faith! Submit the names of your beloved.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 **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) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.;
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. — Pirohi Friday Sale.

Saint of the Week

The Holy Woman-Martyr Agatha — February 5

Agatha, this glorious virgin and martyr for Christ, was born in the Sicilian town of Palermo of noble and wealthy parents. When Emperor Decius began a persecution against Christians, St. Agatha was arrested and brought to trial before Judge Quintian. The judge, seeing Agatha beautiful in countenance, desired to have her for his wife. When he suggested this, Agatha answered that she is the bride of Christ and cannot be unfaithful to her Betrothed. Quintian subjected her to cruel tortures. Agatha was ridiculed, whipped, bound to a tree and flogged until blood flowed. After that, the judge again tried to persuade her to deny Christ and to avoid any further torture and suffering. To that the bride of Christ replied: *"These tortures are very beneficial for me; just as wheat cannot arrive at the granary before it is cleansed from the chaff, so my soul cannot enter into Paradise if my body, beforehand, is not humbled by tortures."* Then, the torturer ordered that her breasts be



cut off and that she be cast into prison. St. Peter appeared to Agatha in prison and restored her to health and wholeness of body. Again, Agatha was led out for torture and again, cast into prison where she gave up her soul to God in the year 251 A.D. in the town of Catania during the reign of Emperor Decius. After her death, the torturer Quintian departed for Palermo to usurp her estate. However, along the way, his horse and the horses of his soldiers became wild with rage. Quintian was bitten on the face, thrown to the ground and trampled to death. Swift was the punishment of God that reached out for this savage crime perpetrated against St. Agatha.

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

Wednesdays & Fridays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.

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 in the next few weeks. It is highly recommended to have your house blessed. Please contact the Church office and schedule.



SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Ann M. Lecci, 93**, of Johnstown, PA on Sunday, January 15, 2023. She is the mother of parishioners Jeno (Nancy) and grandmother of parishioner, Nina. Her brother is Monsignor Peter P. Tay (1200 San Pedro Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212). She is also survived by children: Lisa (Stephen) Fisanick, Larry, Chris, Gregory and several grandchildren. The Frank Duch Funeral Home, Johnstown handled the arrangements. A Mass of Christian Burial took place at the Visitation Roman Rite Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 11:00 a.m.



on Friday, Jan 20 followed by the Entombment at Grandview Cemetery. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Lecci and Tay Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Ann, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!