

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Cross-Veneration – March 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 (\$2,331) YP (\$4)	\$2,335.00
Eastern European Churches	465.00
Votive Candles	121.75

\$2,921.75

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$788) YP (\$1)	\$789.00
Eastern European Churches	70.00
Improvements (\$20) Initial (\$10) B.C.W. (\$14)	44.00
Votive Candles	79.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$982.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (29);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (68); (NS) 11:00 am (29)

4th Great Fast Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (10); 4th Great Fast Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)

Last week's 3rd All Souls Commemoration — (NS) 6:00 p.m. (6); Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (14)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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Alan Valeriano
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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 9 til
1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of St. John Climacus — March 19, 2023



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor

The Reverend Deacon Michael 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.

Sacramental Call to Homebound, Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: c-rsmedia.org.

Social Hall Rental: (MR) Contact Church Office.

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

O John Climacus, our father, God-bearer, hermit of the desert and angel in the flesh, you received heavenly gifts by your fasting, vigils, and prayers. You healed the sick and those coming to you with faith. Glory to Him Who gives you strength! Glory to Him Who crowned you! Glory to the Lord Who heals all through your intercession (Troparion of Great Vespers of St. John Climacus Sunday).

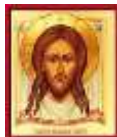
March 19, 2023

Christian Greeting

Volume XIII, Number 12



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS SUNDAY

4th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN, Mar 19 (28) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) Thanksgiving (31st Wed. Ann. 3/21) Kathryn & William Kress

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne, preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar 20 (29) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Ruth + Albert Barnash Son: Al & Christine

Tue, Mar 21 (30) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Jeanette Zubritzky Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed. Mar 22 (31) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

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



Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Thrs, Mar 23 (32) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** Matins with Great Metanies

*****1:00 p.m. (MR)** + Myron Hornack (40th day of passing 3/13) Petruna Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri. Mar 24 (33) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours



ANTICIPATED DIVINE LITURGY OF ANNUNCIATION FEAST W/AKATHIST

6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION W/ AKATHISTOS

Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanlje — REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Sat, Mar 25 (34) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Ann Ones (4th ann of passing) Family

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of St. Mary of Egypt — Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Michalim Family Wallace Michalim & Family

ST. MARY OF EGYPT SUNDAY

5th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN, Mar 26 (35) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + William H. Bell Irene Bordas & Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Andrew Latta (10th Wed. Ann. (4/5) Wife: Arlene & Family

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum, 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

Mar 22 – Margaret Beliuinas, Nicholas Rippole; **Mar 24** – Richard Billy; **Mar 25** – Wallace Michalim, RUTH YANOSKO.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, 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, Elizabeth Poznak, 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., McKees Rocks, 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. If parents are in an invalid marriage, can their children be baptized in the Catholic Church? Are there any conditions that would have to be met? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** If parents are in an invalid marriage, their children can be baptized in the Catholic Church provided the following conditions are met: "That the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent; "That there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism is, in accordance with the provisions of particular law, to be deferred and the parents advised of the reason for this. An infant of Catholic parents, indeed even of non-Catholic parents, may in danger of death be baptized even if the parents are opposed to it.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 19 — March 25, 2023

Special Intention of the Terrek Family

offered by Monica & Christine

(NS): In memory of Ruth & Albert Barnash

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Son: Al & Christine

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2023



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Nicholas**



Radoycis, 75, of McKees Rocks on Sunday, March 5, 2023. He was the nephew of parishioners, Dolores & Ted Babin. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, handled the arrangements. He worked for the Allegheny County Court as a Reservist, and later transitioned into a career with the District Attorney's Office, appearing daily in Court until his retirement in 2019. He served on the McKees Rocks Zoning Board and in 2020 was elected a member of the Borough Council. He served several years at the McKees Rocks Fire Department when he became

Chief for 28 of his 38 years with the department. A Funeral Roman Rite Mass was offered on Tuesday, March 14th at St. Mary Church, McKees Rocks followed by the interment at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy. — **The Reverend Father Joseph Borodach,**

88, of Bradenville, PA, who passed away at Mt. Saint Macrina Manor on Saturday, March 11, 2023 after a lingering battle with cancer. At one time, his brother, Archpriest Fr. John, was pastor of Our MR Holy Ghost Church. He had been pastor of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Bradenville, PA for 49 years. Funeral arrangement were handled by the Lopatich-Brinker Funeral Home, Latrobe. Funeral took place at St. Mary Church on Sat. March 18th at 10:30 a.m. with Archbishop Skurla as the principal celebrant. Interment took place at St. Mary Cemetery, Dallas, PA — Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Radoycis, Babin and Borodach Families. Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Nicholas and the priest, Fr. Joseph, and remember them forever! Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'!



PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME FOR THE GREAT FAST — *Here are the remaining Friday sales dates: Mar. 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.**



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 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!



Northside Announcements

No Particular informational announcements for this week

PUSSY WILLOWS NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY — We are going to need Pussy Willows for our Palm (Flowery) Celebration on the **weekend of April 1-2**. Hopefully they are ready to be harvested. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church Office and inform us that you will be harvesting this traditional symbol.



Fourth Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Encouragement Sunday: Necessity of Prayer & Fasting (Mk. 9: 17-31)

"I do believe! Help my lack of trust!" The healing of the possessed boy is one of the longest miracle stories in Mark's Gospel (only the expulsion of the demons in 5:1-20 is longer). It is also one of the more detailed stories, becoming a bit complicated in the repetition of some of those details (e.g., in v. 22 the father of the boy tells Jesus what he has *already* told him in v. 18; the crowd gathers twice within the same story. Despite its length and detail, there is a very clear and simple message that Mark wishes to convey: **Anything is possible to one who trusts, and trust is deepened by prayer and fasting!** Although Jesus is the one who heals the boy, it is the father's profession of faith that Mark holds up for his readers to imitate. Even in the most desperate moments, when prayer and trust seem useless, Jesus invites his followers to go one step further and pray like the boy's father: "I do believe! Help my lack of trust!"



The Ladder of Divine Ascent

The **Sunday of St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)** is the fourth Sunday of The Great Fast It commemorates St. John Climacus (+ 649 a.d.), the author of the work The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Each of the Sundays of The Great Fast has a special theme. This Sunday's theme is St John's witness to the real spiritual struggle needed for entrance into God's Kingdom. It also is **encouragement** for the faithful to keep the goal of their Lenten efforts, for according to the Lord, *only "he who endures to the end will be saved"* (Mt 24:13). The Ladder describes how to raise one's soul and body to God through the acquisition of ascetic virtues. Climacus uses the analogy of Jacob's Ladder as the framework for his spiritual teaching. Each chapter is referred to as a "step", and deals with a separate spiritual subject. There are thirty Steps of the ladder, which correspond to the age of Jesus at his baptism and the beginning of his earthly ministry. Within the general framework of a 'ladder', Climacus' book falls into three sections. The first seven Steps concern general virtues necessary for the ascetic life, while the next nineteen (Steps 8-26) give instruction on overcoming vices and building their corresponding virtues. The final four Steps concern the higher virtues toward which the ascetic life aims. The final rung of the ladder—beyond prayer, stillness, and even dispassion is love. **Do you know where this icon is in our (MR) Church?**



**LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH MORE OFTEN!
IT'S A GREAT SPIRITUAL INVESTMENT!!**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 22 **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 a.m.; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Pirohi Sales Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 March 23 Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m.
 March 24 **LENTEN FRIDAY:** (MR) 6th & 9th Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 a.m.
 (NS) Divine Liturgy for Annunciation Feast w/Akathistos Hymn @ 6:00 p.m.
 March 25 (MR) Feast of the Annunciation @ 9:00 a.m. followed by Akathistos Hymn.
 March 29 **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 March 31 **The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.**
Lenten FRIDAY: (MR) 8:00 a.m. 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 1 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 April 2 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies
 commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.
 **Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions.**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

(April 3 through April 8)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 (NS) Confessions @ 5:15 p.m.
 Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Thursday (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Friday (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

**(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm
 FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION**

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Saturday (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR)
 Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m.

Vigil of the Resurrection Feast — Great & Holy Sat. Evening (NS) Resurrectional Matins only &
 Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) **Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of
 St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.**

APRIL 9 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of
 Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by
 Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary: Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.

Join us in this Byzantine-Ruthenian Tradition to the Theotokos!

PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGIES this week — (MR) Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.; (NS) Friday @ 6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

THE GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE W/GREAT METANIES

The Matinal (Morning) Prayer of the Church containing the Canon of this beloved Saint of the
 Byzantine Church is celebrated on the **5th Thursday of The Great Fast**. It is a poetic (cont.)

General Announcements

lamentation of a Christian soul who discovers how much God loves him. Several Great Metanies are made while saying **“Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!”** The beautiful liturgical service assists us in expressing our love to God and sorrow for our sins. The soul is purified in this penitential service. Come and join us as we pray together glorifying our Great & Holy Triune God.



REMAINING TWO SUNDAYS: 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: **(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.



VIGIL TOMB WATCH SIGNUP SHEET NOW READY — It has always been a long-standing custom that following the Entombment Vespers on Holy & Great Friday, the Church remains open up to the Resurrectional Matins Holy Saturday evening to venerate the Most Pure Body of Our Savior in the Tomb. In today's environs, we must be very careful that the Church is protected from vandalism. The McKees Rocks Parish will attempt to carry on this beautiful and solemn practice IF we can get enough of people to keep vigil before the Tomb, especially throughout the night. A special poster is now available for signatures. This vigil is open and encourages both Parishes to participate. If you select a time slot, and someone else has signed, you may also sign in the same slot. It would be nice if a few individuals and/or families would share the same slots for safety reasons. If there aren't enough to register throughout the night, the Church will discontinue this tradition. So, please sign early so that we may know if this activity will become a true reality.



MEN NEEDED TO HOLD CANDLES DURING PASSION GOSPELS — On Holy & Great Friday morning during the Passion Matins w/reading of the Twelve Gospels, the tradition of the Church always had 12 men holding candles as the Passion of the Lord Jesus was being proclaimed. We sure would like to keep this meaningful and sacred custom alive. It is open to all men of both parishes to participate. **Please register your name on the special sheet in the MR side vestibule or phone the Church Office.** Let us honor Our Lord for all that He endured for our salvation and redemption. This demonstrates the love for Our Lord Who suffered the Passion & gave His Life for us!

