

## Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Triumph of True Worship

February 26, 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 (\$1,897) YP (\$14)	\$1,911.00
Holy Days (\$125) Easter Décor (\$5)	130.00
Churches in Eastern Europe	5.00
Votive Candles (\$162) Initial (\$10)	172.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,218.00

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$659) YP (\$1)	\$660.00
Holy Days	15.00
Utilities	90.00
Votive Candles	55.76

## Church Attendance Last Week \$820.76

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (36);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (69); (NS) 11:00 am (22)

2<sup>nd</sup> Great Fast Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (15); 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Fast Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)



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**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



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## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of the Palsied Man — March 5, 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](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-Cana Classes required.

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 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

*I have sinned against You without measure, and my punishment will be great indeed: the gnashing of teeth and the signing that knows no comfort; the fire of Hades and the darkness of the damned. Give me tears of repentance, O most just Judge, that by fasting, I may obtain forgiveness of my sins as I cry out to You, O Christ my Lord: Have mercy on me in Your great goodness (Penitential Vespers of the Sunday of The Great Fast).*

March 5, 2023

Christian Greeting

Volume XIII, Number 10



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

**Date Time Intention Requested By**

### 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** Wife: Julia & Daughters

(12<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/25; birthday 2/26; wedding ann 2/28)

**11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop (birthday 3/7)** Valeriano & Kallop Families

**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall  
preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..

Mon, Mar 6 (15) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Diane + Debra Charochak Mom: Florence

Tue, Mar 7 (16) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Barry Smyda (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 3/8) MaryEllen & John Oslick

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**Wed. Mar 8 (17) 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**

**40 Martyrs of Sebaste**

Thrs, Mar 9 (18) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Demetri Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George  
(58<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

**Fri, Mar 10 (19) 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**



### 3<sup>rd</sup> UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

**Sat, Mar 11 (20) 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty**

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*Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Cross-Veneration — Third Sunday of The Great Fast*

**\*3:50 p.m. (MR) + Loretta Yakubik (15<sup>th</sup> ann. of passing 3/13)** Dgtr: Evelyn

### CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy**

**SUN, Mar 12 (21) \*8:50 a.m. (MR) + Julia + John Borsh** Dgtr: Audrey & Tom Hart

**\*10:50 a.m. (NS) + Anna + Mike Kacmarak** Family

**\*Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross prior to each weekend Divine Liturgy**

**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saint Andrew Church, Gibsonia  
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 7** – Andrew Hrishenko, Madylin Usouski; **Mar 9** – Regina Mell; **Mar 10** – Michael Kachuta.

## 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, 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.** Is coffee permitted before Mass (The Divine Liturgy)?

**A. Answer by Catholic Apologist, Michelle Arnold:** The rule is that there is a one hour fast from all food and liquids *before Communion* (not before Mass/The Divine Liturgy). The only exceptions to this rule are water and medicine. Those who have medical conditions that make such a fast dangerous are exempt from the fast. If you can finish your coffee at least one hour before Communion, then it is fine to drink it on the way to church. Otherwise, coffee does break the Communion fast.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**March 5 — March 11, 2023**

(MR): **In memory of John Chambers**

(12<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/25; birthday 2/26; wedding ann 2/28)

offered by Wife: Julia & Daughters

(NS): **In memory of Esther M. Kallop (birthday 3/7)**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2023



# McKees Rocks Announcements

**PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUES THIS WEEK** — The remaining Pirohi Sales are: **Mar. 10, 17, 24 & 31.** Orders are taken the Wednesday prior to the sales from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. We still are in need additional volunteers to be on the front-line pinching.



**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF GRATITUDE** — Our Parish recently received for a second time a substantial donation **in honor of parishioner, Anastasia Bedard** from the **N. David and Janet M. Family Foundation** in the amount of \$2,000.00. We are truly humbled by this monetary gift. May God grant to all involved health and happiness for many years!



**RECENT REPAIRS COMPLETED** — Two major repairs have been completed over the past few weeks in the Gym Boiler and Church Furnace Rooms by **Gravener Heating & Air Conditioning** — (1) A new School circulator motor assembly boiler pump #3 had to be replaced totaling \$2,500.00; (2) Replacement of circulator pump Coupling on boiler #2 at a cost of \$234.84; (3) Replacement of circulator pump coupling for Church Chapel hot water boiler at \$109.84; and (4) A broken worn-out Direct Drive Blower Motor on right furnace totaling \$613.28. Received the total cost by **Scherer Lock & Supply, Inc.** for replacement of outside doors leading to School Basement (facing Church office) totaling \$4,077.25.



**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**

**A CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE CURRENT EASTERN CHURCHES COLLECTION — CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPEAN CHURCHES ENVELOPE** — This is a collection with an annual envelope in your contribution box during The Great Fast. All Archieparchial parishes are asked to contribute monetary donations for all Central & Eastern Churches in Europe. The purpose is to assist them with essential ecclesiastical needs to lighten their burden. This collection is sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). These funds do not only help Byzantine Churches, but all Eastern Churches;

**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 will be ready to be harvested. Our willow trees on parish property have rotted at the trunk, and had to be deposed of a few months ago. We could always use additional branches. It may be that pussy willows will not be given out this year. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church Office.



## THE MEANING OF OFFERING Penance

Second Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

The Meaning of Offering Individual & Collective Penance

**Gospel of Palsied Man — Forgiveness of sins leads to a new life** (Mark 2: 1-12)

Sinning is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually. However, **the sinful character of mankind is something which we all share in common and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each have to do our own fair share of the effort.** And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us. The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his palsied state.



They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways bad enough, we can find ways to do so. Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the palsied man. Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

## 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**).

**Having Suffered the Passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us! (Great Metany)**

**Preterp'ivij za nas Strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozija, pomiluj nas! (Great Metany)**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 8	<b>LENTEN WEDNESDAY:</b> (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	<b>LENTEN FRIDAY:</b> (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 — Clocks SPRING ahead one hour.
March 15	<b>LENTEN WEDNESDAY:</b> (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 nn.
March 17	<b>LENTEN FRIDAY:</b> (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 18	..... 4 <sup>th</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m
March 22	<b>LENTEN WEDNESDAY:</b> (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 noon
March 23	..... Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m.
March 24	<b>LENTEN FRIDAY:</b> (MR) 6 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 a.m.; ..... (NS) Divine Liturgy for Annunciation Feast @ 6:00 p.m
March 25	..... (MR) Feast of the Annunciation @ 9:00 a.m. ..... Lenten Pirohi Sales.

## Saints of the Week

### The 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste — March 9

According to St. Basil of Caesarea (370-379 ad) in a homily stated that forty soldiers who had openly confessed themselves Christians were condemned by the prefect to be exposed



naked upon a frozen pond near Sebaste (present-day Sivas in Turkey), on a bitterly cold night, that they might freeze to death in 320 ad. Among the confessors, one yielded and, leaving his companions, sought the warm baths near the lake which had been prepared for any who might prove inconstant. One of the guards set to keep watch over the martyrs beheld at this moment a supernatural brilliancy overshadowing them and at once proclaimed himself a Christian, threw off his garments, and joined the remaining thirty-nine. Thus the number of forty remained complete. At daybreak, the stiffened bodies of the confessors, which still showed signs of life, were burned and the ashes cast into a river. Christians, however, collected the precious remains, and the relics were distributed

throughout many cities; in this way, veneration of the Forty Martyrs became widespread, and numerous churches were erected in their honor. The liturgical book of the Eastern Church lists the names of the Forty Martyrs as follows: Hesychius, Meliton, Heraclius, Smaragdus, Domnus, Eunoicus, Valens, Vivianus, Claudius, Priscus, Theodulus, Euthychius, John, Xantheas, Helianus, Sisinius, Cyrion, Angius, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecditius, Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Candidus, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Gorgonius, Eutyches, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valaerius, Philoctimon, Severian, Chudion, and Aglaius.

## General Announcements

**LAST WEEK TO SUBMIT SUBSCRIPTION TO ARCHIEPARCHIAL NEWSPAPER** — We are in the process of sending all submitted new and renewal payments to *The Byzantine Catholic World*. There are several who have not turned in their 2023 subscription envelope. In order to keep your B.C.W. from being terminated or interrupted, please submit payment **by Wednesday, March 8**. This newspaper serves as an excellent source of reporting all news in the Archeparchy and throughout the metropolitan province.



**CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATION** — During the Great Fast Season, the Church is 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). This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that the submitted names of your beloved will be prayed and honored. It is an act of continual love and Spiritual Work of Mercy for our beloved who have passed into eternity by rendering the Alms of Prayer. If you have not submitted the special envelope in your envelope box with the names of your beloved, please do so immediately so that they may be included in the next two special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to times and places.



**LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH** — 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. If you have never attended a Presanctified before, you are truly missing something special! Join us on Wednesday (MR) at 7:00 p.m. and Friday evenings at (NS) 6:00 p.m. Consult the schedule of services!



**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: (2) **March 5** — **Saint John Cathedral, Munhall, PA** — **Homilist: Fr. Valerian Mahlik**; (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.



**A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHIEPARCHIAL PRO-LIFE OFFICE** — "I HAVE SIGNUP FOR THYE 40 DAYS FOR Life vigil for **Thursday, March 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** I will bring books for the Moleben for the Sacredness of Life and Supplication for the Victims of Abortion. I look forward to praying with you and that the Lord will grace us with the gifts to be witnesses for human life to alol who pass by and for the conversion of those inside Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh." — Deacon Paul Bobige.