

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Palsied Man – March 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 (\$3,726) YP (\$9)	\$3,735.00
Easter Décor	15.00
Initial (\$5) B.C.W. (\$42).....	47.00
Votive Candles (\$168) Coffee Social (\$46)	214.00
-	\$4,011.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$697) YP (\$1)	\$698.00
Holy Days (\$5) Easter Décor (\$5)	10.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvements (\$85)	95.00
Votive Candles (\$37.50) Eastern European Church (\$10)	47.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$850.50

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

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

3rd Great Fast Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (15); 3rd Great Fast Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (7)

Last week's 2nd All Souls Commemoration — (NS) 6:00 p.m. (6); Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (13)



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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY — March 12, 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

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 12, 2023

Christian Greeting

Volume XIII, Number 11



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY

3rd 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..

Mon, Mar 13 (22) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Kundrat Theresa Kundrat
(10th ann. of passing 3/8)

Tue, Mar 14 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Carol Schaner (birthday 3/9) M/M Steve Lisko

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed, Mar 15 (24) 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

Thrs, Mar 16 (25) 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri, Mar 17 (26) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours



6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty

4th UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar 18 (27) 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of John Climacus — Third Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Dolores Kosko Irene Bordas & Family

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..

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 12 – Ray Zoldos; Mar 13 – David Kacsur; Mar 16 – Elizabeth Poznak (99).

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, 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 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. Why is there so much sex going on with teens today? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The **number one reason** why teens are having more premarital sex today is because Satan is working overtime (1 Peter 5:8). It is important to remember that any sinful act is ultimately prompted by the workings of Satan, who desires that we lose our soul (Rom. 7:15-25). A **second reason** is the invention of artificial birth control. It misleads people to thinking they need not fear unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease. The **third factor** is the decline in morals throughout society. Bad sequences of premarital sex are almost never portrayed on television. TV shows never seem to show broken hearts, pregnancy, suffering of hemorrhages from abortions, sexually transmitted disease, etc. If you are interested read "If You Love Me" by Jason Evert; "Why Wait" by Josh McDowell & Dick Day

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 12 — March 18, 2023

(MR): In memory of Mosko Family

offered by Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

(NS): In memory of Andy Seman

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Sister: Velma Seman

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2023



McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME FOR THE GREAT FAST — Here are the remaining



Friday sales dates: Mar. 17, 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.**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF GRATITUDE — On the occasion of her 99th birthday on March 16, parishioner, **Elizabeth Poznak** asked that S.O.T acknowledge her special birthday to solicit prayers. She is homebound but participates via YouTube every Saturday afternoon. Our Parish family extends to her our heart-felt prayers and most sincere congratulations on this joyous occasion. If you wish to send her birthday greetings: 3125 Santiago Road, Imperial, PA 15126. She will truly appreciate it! May God grant to Elizabeth, health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blaha L'ita!



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. Our willow trees on parish property have rotted at the trunk, and had to be disposed of as a few months ago. We could always use additional branches. It may be that only few pussy willows will be available this year. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church Office and inform us that

you will be harvesting this traditional symbol. Also, please do not purchase them at the florists or any outside vendor. They are generally expensive, and not as hearty.

SIMPLE ABSTINENCE REMAINS ON FRIDAY — Local media sources are reporting that Catholics can partake of meat this coming Friday, March 17. This statement can be confusing. What they should have reported is that **Roman Rite Catholics** have been dispensed by their Roman Rite Bishop of Pittsburgh from meat on St. Patrick's Day (which falls on a Friday this year). **Byzantine Rite Catholics** are to continue Simple Abstinence (no meat) on St. Patrick's Day. Each Rite of the Catholic Church is governed by their own particular hierarch.



Third Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Cross-Veneration Sunday: We Bow to Your Cross, O Master"

(Mark 8: 34 – 9:1)

On the Third Sunday of The Great Fast, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.



What Does It Mean to take Up the Cross Daily?

What does this mean, "take up a cross"? It means you will bear with whatever is troublesome, and in this very act you will be following Christ. When you begin to follow Christ according to His teaching and precepts, you will find many people contradicting you and standing in your way, many who will not only deride you but even persecute you. Moreover, this is true, not only of pagans who are outside the church, but also of those who seem to be in it visibly.... Although they glory in merely the title of Christian, they continually persecute faithful Christians. Such belong to the members of the church in the same way that bad blood is in the body. Therefore, if you wish to follow Christ, do not delay in carrying His cross; tolerate sinners, but do not yield to them. Do not let the false happiness of the wicked corrupt you. You do well to despise all things for the sake of Christ, in order that you may be fit for his companionship. *St. Caesarius of Arles sermons 159.5.*



Pope Teaches Byzantine Form of the "Sign of the Cross"

At the beginning of the 10th century, **Pope Leo IV**, instructed his clergy to hold their fingers in the proper manner when blessing the Sacred Gifts, with two fingers outstretched, and the thumb hidden behind, between them, by which the Trinity is symbolized. He instructed that the people of the Faith should imitate the example of the Priests. By means of the Sign of the Cross to express the elements of our Faith. **The thumb and first two fingers joined together indicate belief in the Three Divine Persons as One God. The two remaining fingers lying in the palm of the hand to signify the Divine and**



the Human natures of Christ united in His One Person - Pope Leo IV (928 a.d.)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 15 **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd 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 **LENTEN FRIDAY:** (MR) 6th & 9th Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am;
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty
 Lenten Pirohi Sales.
 March 18 4th Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
 March 22 **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd 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 **LENTEN FRIDAY:** (MR) 6th & 9th 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. followed by Akathistos Hymn
 March 29 **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn
 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 @ 6:15 a.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)

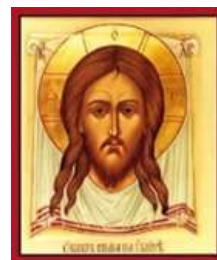
Great & Holy Saturday (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR)
 Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m.

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.

General Announcements

CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT THE 4th ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATION



— This Fourth remembrance during the Great Fast Season, is traditionally acknowledging all those who have departed in the true faith, especially through the reading of the Hramoty (List of submitted names). This will be the 4th 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 final All-Souls Saturdays on June 3. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to times and places.

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: **(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.



THIS THURSDAY — A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHIEPRCHIAL PRO-LIFE OFFICE — **"I HAVE SIGNUP FOR THE 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 all who pass by and for the conversion of those inside Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh." — Deacon Paul Bobige.



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.

