

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of Cheese-Fare — February 11, 2024**

“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 (\$1,377) YP (\$17) ..... | \$1,394.00 |
| Holy Days .....                            | 62.00      |
| Initial (\$10) B.C.W. (\$14).....          | 24.00      |
| Candles (\$199) Coffee Social (\$35) ..... | 234.00     |
|  | <hr/>      |
|  | \$1,714.00 |

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Regular Offering (\$510) YP (\$1) ..... | \$511.00 |
| Holy Days .....                         | 25.00    |
| BCW .....                               | 14.00    |
| Votive Candles .....                    | 37.00    |

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$587.00

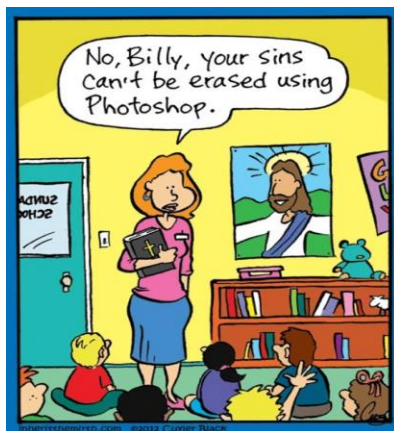
Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (32);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (85); (NS) 11:00 am (21 )

Forgiveness Vespers – (MR) 2:00 pm (14)

Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (7); (NS) 6:00 pm (2)

Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (20); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (10)



**Szal**  
 Valerian F. Szal  
 238 Helen St.,  
 Phone: (412) 331-9713  
 Michael P. Ferrell,  
 Supervisor, CFSP  
 Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

**GCU**  
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
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 GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085

**STRAIT HANDYMAN SERVICES**  
 North Side Parishioner  
**Alan Valeriano**  
 (412) 638-3417  
 PA #172370



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

The Triumph of True Worship — February 18, 2024



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 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<br>Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm<br>Sunday (MR) 9:00 am<br>Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m. | Holy Day Divine Liturgies<br>w/Great Vespers (Oblig)<br>(MR): 7:00 pm<br>Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm | Daily Divine Liturgy<br>M-F (MR) 8:00 am<br>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.

d, Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.

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

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 18, 2024 **Seasonal Christian Greeting:** Volume XIV, Number 7



**Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!**  
**Slava Isusu Christ! — Slava na Viki!**



## Liturgical Services for the Week

| Date  | Time                   | Intention   | Requested By    |
|---|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP</b>                          |                        |   |                 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy</b> |                        |   |                 |
| <b>SUN., Feb 18</b> (7)   | <b>9:00 a.m. (MR)</b>  | + Margaret Kurtanich ( <i>birthday 2/21</i> )               | Children        |
|   | <b>11:00 a.m. (NS)</b> | + John A. Conti   | Mom: + Mary Ann |
|   | <b>4:00 p.m.</b>       | Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Spirit Church, Oakland. |                 |

**Washington's Birthday Observed — Federal Holiday — NO MAIL/BANKING**

|                   |                |   |   |
|-------------------|----------------|---|---|
| Mon, Feb 19 (8)   | 8:00 a.m. (MR) | + Susan + Michael Hubal, Sr.                                  | Hubal Family  |
|                   |                | <i>(56<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/20)</i>                  |   |
| Tue, Feb 20 (9)   | 8:00 a.m. (MR) | + Elizabeth Mross   | Beverly & Gary Michalski                                |
|                   |                | <b>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)</b>                   |   |
| Wed, Feb 21 (10)  | 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                                  |   |
| Thrs, Feb 22 (11) | 8:00 a.m. (MR) | + Mary K. Krisko  | <i>(37<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)</i> Theresa Kundrat |
|                   |                | <b>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)</b>                   |   |
| Fri, Feb 23 (12)  | 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/Hramoty                        |   |

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday**

|                  |                |   |   |
|------------------|----------------|---|---|
| Sat, Feb 24 (13) | 9:00 a.m. (MR) | All Souls w/ reading of Hramoty   |   |
|                  |                | *****   |   |
|                  |                | <b>Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Palsied Man — Second Sunday of The Great Fast</b> |   |
|                  | 4:00 p.m. (MR) | + Margaret Dubensky   | <i>(6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/26)</i> Son: Thomas |

## THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

|   |                        |   |             |
|---|------------------------|---|-------------|
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy</b> |                        |   |             |
| <b>SUN., Feb 25</b> (14)  | <b>9:00 a.m. (MR)</b>  | + Cantor: John Fejka ( <i>birthday 2/28</i> )   | Dgtr: Susie |
|   | <b>11:00 a.m. (NS)</b> | + Esther M. Kallop ( <i>10<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/19</i> ) Valeriano & Kallop Families   |             |
|   | <b>4:00 p.m.</b>       | Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks 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 to be published.

*Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners*

**Feb 19** – Matthew Warhola; **Feb 20** – Monica Lemesh; **Feb 21** – Mike Muskal; **Feb 23** – Harper Kovacs, Sawyer Kovacs.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliunas, Diane Bell, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Albert Kovacs, Sr., Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, JOHN NEWPORT, Dorothy Pelescak, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Elizabeth Poznak, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

**HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER** (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger. **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 Cifrulak, Mildred Terrek.

**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS. **FORBES REGIONAL HOSPITAL** (2570 Haymaker Rd., Monroeville, PA 15146): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** I received a gift from my brother of a lava-stone bracelet. The tag says, "Lava stone is a grounding stone that helps us connect to the energies of Mother Earth and the element of fire. It can help to dissipate anger and absorbs negative energy." This sounds New Age to me. What should I do? If I take it apart and make jewelry with it, would that be wrong? **Answer by Catholic Apologist Peggy Frye:** Although New Agers may believe that lava stones are good for healing (chakras) and vitality, these stones do not contain any magical properties. They are lava rock deposits. If you don't attach any mystical power to these stones, you can do what you want with them.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**February 18 — February 24, 2024**

(MR): **In memory of the Mell Family**

offered by Regina Mell

(NS): **In memory of Susan & Michael Hubal, Sr.**

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Hubal Family

(NS) AVAILABLE 2024



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks & North Side

**BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND SPIRIT** — Irena Elzbeta Tapsak was Reborn of



Water and Spirit and became a full member of the Church through the *Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Baptism, Chrismation and First Eucharist* on the **Sunday of Cheese-Fare, February 11, 2024**. She was born in Carnegie on January 8, 2024. Her parents are Deacon Nathaniel & Natalia (Wohar) Tapsak of Carnegie, PA. Sponsors were Stephen

Tapsak and Elizabeth McKay. *The Patron Saint assigned to Irena is the Holy Virgin-Martyr Irene. Her Feast Day is May 5.* May God to Irena Elzbeta, Health & Salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

**PIROHI PROJECT RESUMES THIS WEEK** — Our Pirohi Project continues orders/ sales this week. The Friday Sales are: **Feb. 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15, & 22 (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 can 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 2024 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.sarris Candies.com** and click on the **Fundraising tab. Type in the Group ID # 10-3617. The Organization name is Holy Ghost Youth Group.** A packaging fee will be applied. Let's assist them by purchasing candy bars!



**GIFT OF MARY PRESENTATION INSPIRES ALMSGIVING PROGRAM** — In Autumn our Youth Group participated in a talk given by a young woman from Gift of Mary. Gift of Mary is an organization with a shelter for homeless women in downtown Pittsburgh. Our Byzan-TEEN Youth Group, and all who attended, were deeply touched by the talk and discussed doing something to assist in this ministry. During the Great Fast it had been decided to offer almsgiving by collecting items this ministry needs to assist the women they serve. We all know the things that help a woman feel human. Many of these women bring their children with them. Take a flyer that is in the narthex or side vestibule that lists items that are needed.

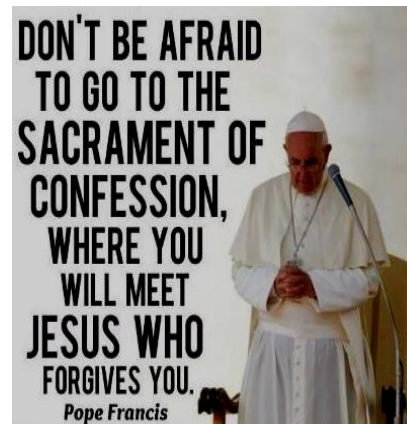


**MR & NS PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE NEXT WEEK** — The results PAC/FAC will appear in the next issue. Please pickup your church envelopes and calendars.

## THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

*The preceding abridged text is taken from an informal lecture Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira gave on February 23, 1964. Its message is just as pertinent today.*

It is said that today's world is profoundly against penance and mortification. This is quite true .... We tend to be against penance because of the principle behind



it. This consists in the fact that man is a sinner. **All sin is an insult to Divine justice and majesty, and therefore the sinner must make reparation** by suffering in proportion to the delight that he should not have had but did. Penance therefore is a kind of restitution. Just as a thief who steals money is required to repay it, so also from the standpoint of the designs of Divine Providence, the sinner who steals illicit pleasures to which he is not entitled must also pay something back. According to the scales of Divine justice, this is done by

suffering in proportion to the harm that was done. In the act of penance, we find recognition of sin, the gravity of sin, and God's offended majesty. We realize that our offense cannot be appeased with empty words and ideas but with self-control and self-imposed suffering in reparation for what was done. More importantly, penance recalls to mind that **we are conceived in Original Sin and thus have disorderly instincts that must be overcome and fought.** Even when there is no fault of our own, it is often advisable, and many times indispensable, to crush the impulses of these disordered senses by doing something that breaks the cravings of the flesh and thus to practice penance. There is nothing more opposed to the modern mentality than the idea that man is weak, inclined to evil, and must fight his instincts and senses. Watch any modern movie, open any novel or romance or enter any public place and we see that the idea of penance is far away. **Human pride, even more than sensuality, rebels against penance** .... God wants us to have the right spirit, principles, the ideas of penance and not just the concrete acts. When penance is done in the right spirit, it above all punishes our pride and makes us bow to the reality of human misery in general and also our individual misery.

## 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*).

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 21 ..... LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.  
 ..... Pirohi Sales Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn.  
 February 23 ..... LENTEN FRIDAY: (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/ Hramoty— Pirohi Friday Sale.  
 February 24 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of Head of the Baptist & 2<sup>nd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.  
 February 28 .LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (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 1 ..... LENTEN FRIDAY: (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 2 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.  
 March 6 ..... LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (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 8 ..... LENTEN FRIDAY: (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 9 ..... 40 Martyrs of Sebaste & 4<sup>th</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.  
 March 10 ..... Daylight Savings Time begins.

## Faith Event of the Week

### The Triumph of True Worship Celebrated Today

#### Commemorated on the First Sunday of The Great Fast



A “non-guileless image” is so important in our relationship with God as in Nathaniel’s case. An Icon (meaning “image”) depicts a guileless character of its representative created in God’s image. In the Old Testament, due to the danger of idolatry, God forbade the Jews to worship the “carved image or likeness” of any creature (Ex. 20:4-5; Duet. 4:15-20). Early Christians, too, in the face of paganism and idolatry, adhered to these Mosaic ordinances. After the victory of Christianity over paganism (313 A.D.), when Christian theology was sufficiently developed, the Fathers of the Church gradually admitted the public veneration of icons. *The iconoclastic fury of Emperor Leo the Isaurian (717-741), during which the leading defenders of the icons were St. Germanus of Constantinople (d. 733) and St. John Damascene (d. 749) made the Church define her teachings. In reply, at the seventh Ecumenical Council of Nicea (787), the Church’s teaching concerning the veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed. The Fathers explained that the veneration of icons, theologically, was based on the mystery of incarnation, since in the person of Jesus Christ we received revelation not only of the “Word of God” (Jn. 1:1-14), but also of the “Image of God,” as attested by St. Paul saying that Jesus is the “image (eikon) of the unseen God.” (Col.1:15) Jesus Himself testified: “To have seen Me is to have seen the Father!” (Jn. 14:9).*

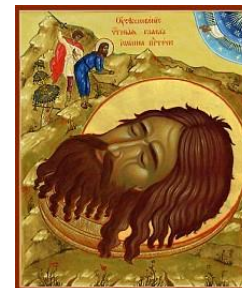
### Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

Wednesdays not Fridays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m. prior to the Presanctified Divine Liturgy ; these are days of Simple Abstinence (no meat permitted)

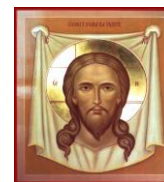
# General Announcements

## 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of St. John the Baptist’s Head

The great and glorious Baptist John was beheaded according to the wish and instigation of the wicked Herodias, the wife of Herod. When John was beheaded, Herodias ordered that his head not be buried with his body for she feared that this awesome prophet, somehow, would resurrect. Therefore, she took his head and buried it deep in the ground in a secluded and dishonorable place. Her maidservant was Johanna, the wife of Chuza a courtier of Herod. The good and devout Johanna could not tolerate that the head of the Man of God remain in this dishonorable place. Secretly she unearthed it, removed it to Jerusalem and buried it on the Mount of Olives. After a considerable period of time, an eminent landowner believed in Christ, left his position and the vanity of the world and became a monk, taking the name, Innocent. As a monk, he took up abode on the Mount of Olives exactly in the place where the head of the Baptist was buried. Wanting to build himself a cell for himself, he dug deep and discovered an earthen vessel and in it a head, which was mysteriously revealed to him, to be the head of the Baptizer. He revered it and reburied it in the same spot. Later, according to God’s Providence, this miracle-working relic [The head of St. John] traveled from place to place, sunk into the darkness of forgetfulness and again was rediscovered. Finally, during the reign of the pious Empress Theodora, the mother of Michael and the wife of Theophilus and at the time of Patriarch Ignatius it was translated to Constantinople. Many miraculous healings occurred from the relic of the Forerunner [Precursor]. It is important and interesting to note that while he was still alive, “John did no miracles” (John 10:41), however, his relics have been endowed with miraculous power. These two Findings are commemorated on Feb. 24.



### LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH AN EXTRA TIME – 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 and receiving Holy Communion**. If you have never attended a Presanctified before, you are truly missing something special! Join us on (MR) Wednesday and (NS) Friday evenings. Consult the schedule for these special penitential services! We follow the example of the sinful Publican who came to the Temple with humility.

### CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATIONS

— During the Great Fast Season, the Church is once again 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). It is an act of continual love for our beloved who have passed into eternity by rendering the Alms of Prayer. If you haven’t submitted the special envelope in your envelope box with the names of your beloved, please do so immediately to that they may be included in the next three Lenten special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to time and place.

