

## Parish Offerings – Sunday of Triumph of True Worship — February 18, 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 (\$1,740) YP (\$4)	\$1,744.00
Holy Days	152.00
Initial	10.00
Votive Candles	225.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,131.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$987) YP (\$1)	\$988.00
Holy Days	15.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvements (\$30)	40.00
Votive Candles	49.50
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**Church Attendance Last Week** \$1,092.50

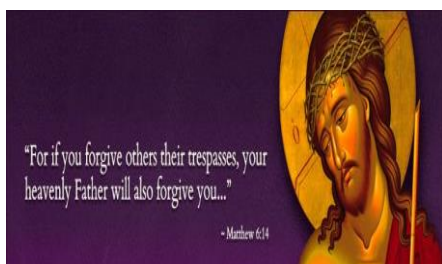
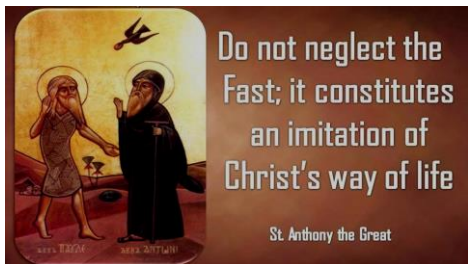
Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (23);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (67); (NS) 11:00 am (29)

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


1<sup>st</sup> of 5 Deanery Vespers – (Oakland) 4:00 pm (51)

2<sup>nd</sup> Great Fast Wed. — (MR) 7:00 pm (16); 3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Fast Fri. — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)





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

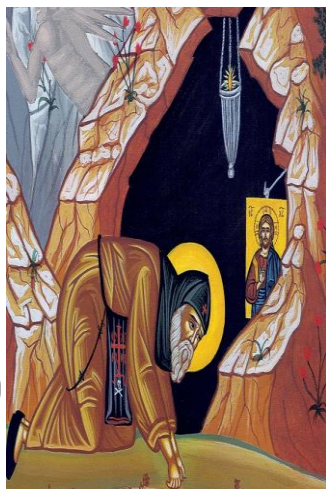


Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
A Fraternal Benefit Society

GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



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



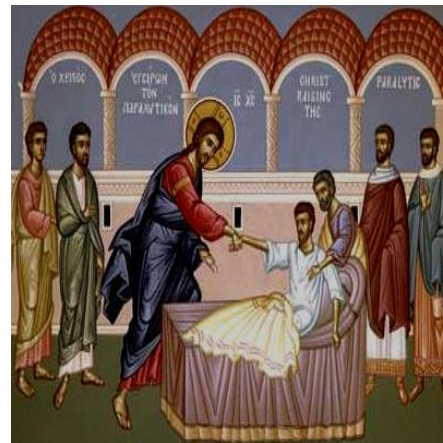
## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of the Palsied Man — February 25, 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  
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.

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 25, 2024

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIV, Number 8



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christ! — Slava na Viki!



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSID MAN

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

**SUN., Feb 25** (14) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Cantor: John Fejka (*birthday 2/28*) Dgtr: Susie  
**11:00 a.m. (NS)** + Esther M. Kallop (*10<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/19*) Valeriano & Kallop Families  
**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks  
preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

**Mon, Feb 26** (15) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Rosemarie (Oslick) Odem MaryEllen & John Oslick  
(*56<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 2/20*)

**Tue, Feb 27** (16) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** Health & Welfare of Mike Muska Joseph A. Cehula, TO Carm.

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE** (*no meat*)

**Wed, Feb 28** (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

**Thrs, Feb 29** (18) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Ruth + Albert Barnash Son: Al & Christine  
(*20<sup>th</sup> ann of passing*)

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE** (*no meat*) — 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of March

**Fri, Mar 1** (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/Hramoty**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday — 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of March**

**Sat, Mar 2** (20) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** **All Souls w/ reading of Hramoty**

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**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Precious Cross — Third Sunday of The Great Fast**

**\*\*\* 3:50 p.m. (MR)** + John D. Marks Theresa Kundrat

### CROSS VENERATION SUNDAY

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

**SUN., Mar 3** (21) **8:50 a.m. (MR)** + Msgr. Russell A. Duker  
(*40<sup>th</sup> day of pass 3/1*) Norma & Peter Kascur

**\*\*\* 10:50 a.m. (NS)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

**4:00 p.m.** Deanery Penitential Vespers at SS. Peter & Paul

Church, Braddock 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 26** — Helen Best, ALICE SLAGLE, Joanne Stillwell; **Feb 28** — William Culan; **Mar 11** — JAMES LASKO, Kimberly Ruud.

### 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 Cifrutlak, 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.** 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

**February 25 — March 2, 2024**



(MR): **In memory of the Michael Sendro** (*birthday 2/25*)

offered by Wife: Janet & Family

(NS): **In memory of Ruth & Albert Barnash**

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Son: Al & Christine

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2024



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks & North Side

**PIROHI PROJECT RESUMES THIS WEEK** — Our Pirohi Project continues orders/ sales this week. The Friday Sales are: **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.sarriscandies.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 PROGRM** — 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.



**A WORD FROM DEAN POLOKA** — For those who may have missed the first presentation, parishioner Dean Poloka will again present, 'From Rus to the Rocks' on Saturday March 9, at 2:30 pm in the church basement. This presentation briefly explains where our Carpatho-Rusyn ancestors came from and why they settled in McKees Rocks.

## North Side

**HEAT RESTORED IN CHURCH** — Last Sunday we were without heat. Our antiquated Steam Heating Boiler was leaking water due to a break in a short union pipe arising from corrosion. Also, one of six burners was rusted causing gas to leak from the area. Gravenier Heating and Cooling were contacted to elevate the problem. THE GOOD NEWS is that the system has been temporarily repaired; THE BAD NEWS is that the boiler is very old and will eventually need to be replaced. If you would be so kinds during this transition period, to use your special monthly envelope designate IMPROVEMENT FUND so that we can begin allocating this capital gift for this purpose. Our pastor is working to have our parish exist as long as we can meet the bills.

# 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 Bozij, pomiluj nas! (*Great Metany*)**

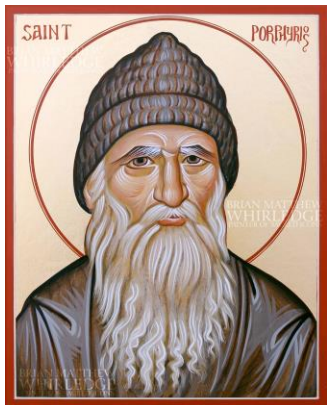
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.

## Saint of the Week

### St. Porphyrius the Bishop of Gaza — Feb. 26

Saint Porphyrius, Archbishop of Gaza, was born about the year 346 at Thessalonica. His parents were people of substance, and this allowed Saint Porphyrius to receive a fine education. Having the inclination for monastic life, he left his native region at twenty-five years of age and set off for Egypt. After five years, Saint Porphyrius was afflicted with a serious malady of the legs. He decided to go to the holy places of Jerusalem to pray for healing. As he lay half-conscious at the foot of Golgotha, Saint Porphyrius fell into a sort of trance. He beheld Jesus Christ descending from the Cross and saying to him, "Take this Wood and preserve it." Coming out of his trance, he found himself healthy and free from pain. Then he gave away all his money to the poor and for the adornment of the churches of God. For a time, he supported himself by working as a shoemaker. The words of the Savior were fulfilled when the saint was forty-five years old. The Patriarch of Jerusalem ordained Saint Porphyrius to the holy priesthood and appointed

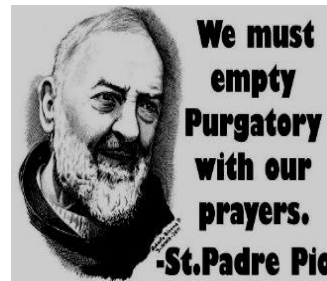


him custodian of the Venerable Wood of the Cross of the Lord. In 395 the bishop of the city of Gaza (in Palestine) died. With fear and trembling the ascetic accepted the office of bishop, and with tears he prostrated himself before the Life-Creating Wood and went to fulfill his new obedience. During this time there had been a long spell without rain, causing a severe drought. Saint Porphyrius imposed a fast for all the Christians; he then served an all-night Vigil, followed by a church procession around the city. Immediately an abundant rain poured down. Seeing this miracle, many pagans cried out, "Christ is indeed the only true God!" **As a result of this, 127 men, thirty-five women and fourteen children were united to the Church through Holy Baptism, and another 110 men soon after this. Saint Porphyrius upheld Christianity in Gaza to the very end of his life, and guarded his flock from the vexatious pagans.** Through the prayers of the saint numerous miracles and healings occurred. The holy archpastor guided his flock for twenty-five years, and reposed in 420 at an advanced age.

## General Announcements

**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.

**CHURCHES PARISH ADVISORY & FINANCIAL COUNCIL MEET** — Both Parishes gathered to discuss Spiritual & Material areas to advise the pastor in areas that need attention. The members chosen do not vote on the pastor's presentation, but respectively give their input into the presented agenda. It is the discretion of the pastor to finalize the concerned areas.— **(MR)** — (1) the 2023 General Financial Statement was examined into detail as to the direction of the income and expenses of the Parish; (2) Repair of the side entrance roof is a matter of grave repair since its age goes back to 1989 and is leaking; (3) The Convent roof has been causing problem for our lessee's of F.O.R. for a roof replacement; (4) School roofs have been causing ongoing leaking problems especially for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (A.I.U.) lessee's.; (5) our Religious Education Classes agenda was reviewed, and the report indication that there will be no Solemn Communion Celebration this year. All our children are growing up and have graduated. — **(NS)** — (1) the 2023 General Financial Statement was examined into detail as to the direction of the income and expenses of the Parish; (2) Church steps were temporarily repaired this past summer; (3) Church Roof needs repaired and the ongoing clearing of the honey bees problem; and (4) repair of the tower Church Bells to be functional.

### 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)**