

Parish Offerings – 36th Sunday After Pentecost — January 19, 2025

“Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)

H

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$1,592) YP (\$2)	\$1,594.00
Holy Day (\$5) Christmas (\$500)	505.00
Initial (\$24) B.C.W. (\$84)	108.00
Votive Candles	118.00

\$2,325.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$3,127) YP (\$2)	\$3,129.00
Initial (\$16) Utilities (\$25) Improvements (\$20) B.C.W. (\$14)	75.00
Votive Candles	49.00

\$3,253.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (27)

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (67); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)





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



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 Randy
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HANDYMAN

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



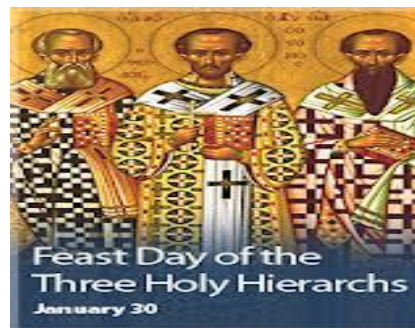
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 36TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jubilee Year of HOPE — January 26, 2025



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 Father David A. Bosnich

Assistant Pastor (NS), Assigned to Chancery

The Reverend Deacon Michael E. Meaders (NS)

The Reverend Deacon Luke R. Iyengar (MR)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

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 Mystery of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.

Personal Care & Hospitalized: Whenever admitted, Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Associate Coordinators: Aimee Helms (412) & Leah Trapl (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!

Divine Liturgy Stipends (\$20) — Sanctuary Lamps (\$10).

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).

January 26, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 4



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUN., Jan 26 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Hrebenak Deacon Luke, Maria & Anita Iyengar
(39th ann of passing)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert J. Galida Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen
(47th ann of passing 1/21)

Transposition of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom

Mon., Jan 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Ann Palahniuk Patty & Tom Sally
(8th ann of passing 1/23)
Tue., Jan 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ruth + Albert Barnash Son: Al & Christine
Wed., Jan 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Pyda Son: Bill

Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs — Simple Holy Day

Thrs, Jan 30 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop Bro: Charles Kaiser

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for victims of CA wildfire

Fri., Jan 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew, Jr + Myron + Ann + Mary Krisko Theresa Kundrat

Prefestive of the Encounter Feast

Sat., Feb 1 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Marian G. Weigand M/M Walt Krusta

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Encounter Feast — Sunday of Zaccheus

*** 3:50 p.m. (MR) + Michele (Terrek) Chiavetta Barbara & Peter Stecko

Feast of the Encounter

Sunday of Zacchaeus — 1st Pregreat Sunday

SUN., Jan 26 *** 8:50 a.m. (MR) Special Intentions Fr. Firko
*** 10:50 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

Jan 29 – Richard Cifrulak, Gary Schelling; **Jan 31** – Burt Cifrulak, GARY MULLEN, DAMIAN TRAPL; **Feb 1** – Karen Grzywinski.

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

HOME: Dolores Babin, Margaret Beliuas, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Kurt Perschy, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.

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

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Mildred Terrek.

CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Posnak

CONCORDIA OF BRIDGEVILLE (3560 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Flo Charochak.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it OK to work on Sunday? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Rest from work is necessary. We know that even God himself rests: "he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done" (Gen. 2:2). In recognition of this, the Church obligates us to rest on the Lord's day. The *Code of Canon Law* states, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body" (CIC 1247). However, the Church also recognizes that legitimate reasons excuse from this obligation. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health" (CCC 2185).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 26 — February 1, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Irene, John & Robert Bordas**

offered by Dgtr & Sister: Karen (Frank) Grzywinski

(NS): **In memory of Monsignor Raymond Balta**

(MR) Few AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Anonymous

(NS) Few AVAILABLE 2025

General Announcements

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of (MR) parishioner, **Irene (Mick) Muha, 102**, at Allegheny Hospital, Pittsburgh. She resided in Kennedy Township. The date of her passing was on Friday, January 17, 2025. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Anthony M. Musmanno Funeral Home, McCoy Road. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Wednesday, Jan 22nd here at Holy Ghost Church at 10:45 a.m. followed by interment at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. She is survived by her daughter, Noreen, and niece and nephews of the Schelling

Family whom she also raised upon the passing of her sister, Marianne: James, Albert, Gary, and Marianne (Jay) Spishak. Our parish extends its most *sincere condolences to the Muha, Schelling and Herleman Families*. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal rest to your servant, Irene, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'!*

GRATITUDE TO ALL FROM BOTH PARISHES — A special thank you is extended to all who stayed to dismantle the Christmas decorations last week at both parishes. Your sacrificial and unselfish gesture made it possible to complete the task within a reasonable time. Team-Work is awesome! God bless you for your assistance! May God grant you many happy and blessed years full of health and happiness! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

MEETING TODAY TO DISCUSS UPCOMING PIROHI PROJECT — We are working to organize plans for this year's Lenten Pirohi Project. All Volunteers for the Project are asked to meet today, **today, Sunday, January 26, 2025** following the Divine Liturgy in the Church basement.

FORTHCOMING PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of meeting change now slated for (MR) **Saturday, February 8, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m. in the Church office;** (NS) **Sunday, February 9, 2025 following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.** Major agenda is the 2024 Church Financial Report. Please place this date on your agenda.

ADDITIONAL SANCTUARY LAMPS AVAILABLE IN 2025 FOR BOTH PARISHES — Sanctuary Lamps are currently available for your intentions at both parishes. They are \$10.00 each and are burned before the Tabernacle of Our Lord Jesus' Real Presence throughout the week. Submit your request and stipend in a regular envelope and who it is that is offering.



PERSONAL INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS STILL AVAILABLE — If you are interested in obtaining a 2024 Church Financial Statement, please phone the Church office (412) 771-3324.

A Spiritual Reflection on Today's Gospel

The Canaanite Woman Shows GREAT FAITH — GOSPEL Matthew 15: 21-28

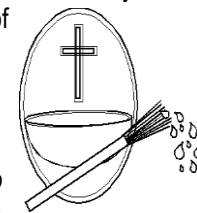
Although the Canaanite woman comes to Jesus in humility, she speaks assertively, saying, "have mercy on me." She seems to presume to command Jesus. She is certain not only of His divine power but also His merciful willingness to use that power to help her. Naturally, this sure faith is worked by the Holy Spirit, as Jesus comments, "you have great faith!" Interestingly, she calls Jesus "Son of David," an appellation we would expect from the Jews, not a Gentile. Her address suggests she

understands the Old Testament prophecy, which so many Jews of the flesh did not. The Gospel is expressed directly to the woman as the Lord acknowledges her faith and heals her daughter. He forgives the woman's since through her faith rather than through Jewish heredity. Indirectly, the Lord also shows mercy to the Jews present. Jesus' remark, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," is also intended for the Jewish disciples, not for the woman only. The Jews and Christians must understand two things: **(1) without Christ, we are the lost, unsaved sheep of Israel; 2) salvation through faith is for us just as it is for the woman.** Although these words are more an action of the Law to convict the heart, Jesus' desire is to move His disciples to the Gospel.

INSPIRATIONAL WORDS TO PONDER

When you are going through difficulty and wonder where God is
REMEMBER that the Teacher is always quiet during the test!

WHY YOUR HOME SHOULD BE BLESSED EACH YEAR — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our home, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 30 Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs: Thursday (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 February 2 Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 am.; (NS) 10:50 pm
 February 8 (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting Saturday @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 9 (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the DL.
 February 21-22 First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.

.. SAINTS OF THE WEEK — Simple Holy Day THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS — January 30

In the month of January, each of these saints has their own feast day.

St. Basil the Great, January 1; St. Gregory the Theologian, January 25;



and the transposition of the relics of **St. John Chrysostom, January 27.** This combined feast day, January 30, was instituted in the eleventh century during the reign of Emperor Alexius Comnenus. At one time a debate arose among the people concerning who of the three is the greatest? Some extolled Basil because of his purity and courage; others extolled Gregory for his unequaled depth and lofty mind in theology; still others extolled Chrysostom because of his eloquence and clarity in expounding the Faith. Thus, some were called Basilians, others Gregorgians, and the third were called Johannites.

This debate was settled by Divine Providence to the benefit of the Church and to an even greater glory of the three saints. Bishop John of Euchite (June 14) had a vision in a dream: At first, all three of these saints appeared to him separately in great glory and indescribable beauty, and after that all three appeared together. They said to him, *"As you see, we are one in God and there is nothing contradictory in us; neither is there a first or a second among us."* The saints also advised Bishop John that he write a common service for them and to order a common feast day of celebration. Following this wonderful vision, the debate was settled in this manner: **January 30** would be designated as the common feast of these three hierarchs. The Greeks consider this feast not only an ecclesiastical feast but their greatest national school holiday.

General Announcements

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR B.C.W. SUBSCRIPTION — A good source of Archieparchial News is *The Byzantine Catholic World*. News and photographs concerning all parishes are reported. Our parishes cannot sustain the cost on a complimentary basis. Please submit \$14.00 in the special envelope in your contribution box. If you are subscribing for the first time, please make a notation on the envelope: *NEW SUBSCRIBER*. This will help the Church office to expedite your request. If you would like to subscribe for someone not able to afford an annual subscription, please submit the amount.



SUPPORTING THE CHURCH IS AN IMPORTANT PRECEPT — A reminder, once again, that it is the policy of HGC is that if you have not contributed for two full years, your envelopes will be removed in respect of your decision. Don't worry, if you wish to be reinstated, just phone the Church office and ask to be reinstated. It is as easy as that. If you are not currently receiving contribution envelopes, please contact the Church office A.S.A.P. and request to be put on the list. Envelopes signify your membership to the parish. Adult envelopes are to be used by all who have graduated from high school.

 A form for "i love my church" subscription. It features a logo on the left with a red heart and the text "i love my church". To the right of the logo are several lines for personal information: NAME: _____, ADDRESS: _____, CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____, PHONE NUMBER: _____, and AMOUNT: \$ _____ with checkboxes for "CASH" and "CHECK".

PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS — The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Canan Program for the Archeparchy once each year. This year's Pre-Canan Program is **March 8**. Couples planning to marry this year **must fulfill** this Saturday session. The program addresses topics pertinent to couples' future lifestyle and concludes on the second Saturday with Presentation of Certificates. Sessions will discuss the following topics: communication, sexuality and relationships, Byzantine spirituality and prayer, natural family planning, finances and budgeting, experiences of marriage and theology of marriage/Crowning Ceremony. **For information concerning registration, fees, etc. go to archpitt.org – Office of Religious Education link.**



SUBMIT PARISH REGISTRATION CARD — The first item in your new contribution envelope box is a registration card. If you have not already submitted it, please take a few moments to complete it and return it to the church office. This basic information is very important in updating your information with the church. Please be sure that it includes your recent address, phone number, and also email address (if you have one). If you DO



NOT wish your information to be given to a person requesting it, please indicate **PRIVATE INFORMATION**. If the information is the same as last year's, just submit the card and write **SAME INFORMATION**. Many times, the Church tries to contact a parishioner, but the information had not been updated. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.