

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Prodigal Son — February 16, 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)

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$1,772) YP (\$5)	\$1,777.00
Initial (\$5) B.C.W. (\$15)	20.00
Votive Candles	152.00

\$1,949.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$555.00
Initial (\$10) Improvement (\$20)	30.00
Votive Candles	41.00

\$626.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (26)

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (51); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead



Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
Phone: (412) 331-9713

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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(412) 973-1085



North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172370

May God
Shine Down
His Blessings
On You
Today!



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

Sunday of Meat-Fare

4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 23, 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) 463-3002 & Leah Trapl (412) 297-6374.

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)*

February 23, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 9



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

Sunday of Meat-Fare

4th Pregreat Sunday — Judgment Sunday

SUN., Feb 23 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret Kurtanich (birthday 2/21) Children


11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon., Feb 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Muha Karin & Pete Thompson
(40th day of passing 2/25)

Tue., Feb 25 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Regina M. Mell Anthony Cirisliano

Wed., Feb 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Rosemarie Oslick Odem MaryEllen & John Oslick
(11th ann of passing)

Thrs, Feb 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Sandra Rosko Mary Ann Puluka

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** (your choice): for the Health & Welfare of Our Holy Father Francis, Pope of Rome 
Fri., Feb 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna M. Lecci (birthday) Son: Jeno & Nancy Lecci

Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics

Sat, Mar 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) Living & Deceased of Martha Jupinko Dr. John A. Straka, MD

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Cheese-Fare — 5th & Final Pregreat & Forgiveness Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Margaret Dubensky Son: Thomas
(7th ann of passing 2/26)

Sunday of Cheese-Fare

5th & Final Pregreat & Forgiveness Sunday

SUN., Mar 2 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Julia + Andrew Kittan Family

2:00 p.m. (MR) Forgiveness Vespers w/anointing of Oil of Gladness Initiating The Great Fast Season

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 23 – Harper Kovacs, Sawyer Kovacs; **Feb 26** – Helen Best, ALICE SLAGLE, James Stilwell; **Feb 28** – William Culan; **Mar 1** – JAMES LASKO, Kim Ruud.

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

HOME: Dolores Babin, Margaret Beliuinas, Dolores & William Bordas, Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, 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) Waurthier.

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

VANADIUM WOODS VILLAGE (50 Vanadium Rd. Bridgeville, PA 15017): Bea Stempkowski.

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

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Can I have a Mass (Divine Liturgy) said for the repose of the soul of my Protestant friend? And what happens to my prayers if he or she is in heaven already or, God forbid, hell? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** You can, and should, have a Mass (Divine Liturgy) said for your Protestant friend, or anyone for that matter. If the one we are praying for is in heaven, he is not in need of our prayers. If he is in hell, no prayer can benefit him. But because the Church does not presume to know if any particular soul is damned, we are not to judge but to pray. The rest is up to God. Only God judges the heart (cf. 1 Sm 16:7).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 23 — March 1, 2025

(MR): In memory of + Cantor John Fejka (birthday 2/28)

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS): In memory of Eddy Seman

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Sister: Velma

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2025



McKees Rocks Announcements

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Nicholas Thomas Lemesh, 78**, formerly of McKees Rocks a who passed away in Wilmington, Delaware on Friday, February 14, 2025. Local arrangements are handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. The Funeral Divine Liturgy will be offered on Thursday, Feb. 27. Interment will follow at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township.. He is survived by his brother Robert (Mona) Daszy; and a sister parishioner: Monica Lemesh; a nephew and cousins. Our parish extends its most *sincere condolences* to the *Lemesh & Daszy Families*. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Nicholas, and remember him forever. Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



UPCOMING PIROHI PROJECT PRIOR TO HOLY WEEK — It has been determined that the Pirohi Project will now continue sales on the following Friday dates: **Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28; Apr 4, & 11 (no sales on Holy & 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 are able to place advertising posters, please take a few by the Church entrances. It will be greatly appreciated!**



EXTERNAL WATER SPREAD TO BE REPLACED THIS WEEK — As published in the Feb 2 edition of the S.O.T. due to the wear and tear causing leaking valves and pipes of the main water spread in the school boiler room, it was evident that they have to be replaced along with 2" & 3" brass pipe that also leads into the Kitchen. It is essentially necessary that this be attended to immediately. If left undone, the plumber indicates a catastrophe is imminent. This is also of a commercial grade labor. The Armstrong Comfort Solutions (formerly Matt Mertz Plumbing) will work the full day job beginning tomorrow morning. The cost will be divided between the Church and Pirohi account. The total discounted cost of the project is \$8,820.00 (\$4,410.00 is half of the amount). We wish to thank the Pirohi Project for their sacrifice.

North Side Announcements

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH THIS WEEK — It has been a while since the Church had undergone a thorough cleaning. Hopefully, we can have this accomplished before entering The Great Fast. It is slated for this **Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Please set time aside for this needed task to be set in motion. Also, please bring mops, buckets rags, etc.

NEW CHURCH ROOF THIS PAST WEEK — Early Monday morning, Feb. 17th, R & B Roofing commenced working on applying a new Church Roof. This project was very much needed. Hopefully, the leaks will be a problem of the past. Additional information will be reported in an upcoming S.O.T. May this new roof last a long time.

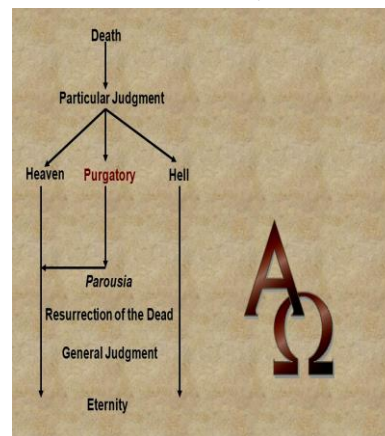


Today's Gospel Meditation

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST (Matthew 25: 31-46)

The 4th Pregreat Fast Sunday — Evidence of REPENTANCE is EXPRESSED COMPASSION

What do we mean by "Meat-Fare"? — Meat-Fare Sunday indicates a farewell to meat inasmuch as in the early Christian Church meat was no longer eaten from this time on

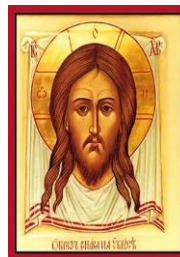


throughout The Great Fast season (today is comparable to Marti Gras of the Western Church). In the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe, the season of The Great Fast the Byzantine Catholic Ruthenian (Rusyn) faithful practiced "strict abstinence" (no meat and dairy products) for the entire Lent including Holy Week. Being an agrarian society with harsh weather conditions, a minimal amount of labor was performed, and a greater concentration was given to the Holy Fast. However, even in our technologically advanced American society, we must make time to participate in The Great Fast services and maintain at least minimal fasting

practices if we have the desire to express our love for the Lord. In this spirit, the Byzantine Catholic Church sets before us today the Last or "Terrible Judgment." Those, whom the Church was unable to convert through its instruction on the mercy of God in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, are now presented with the fear of hell in an attempt to affect them. The liturgical services are designed to fill us with salutary fear and sorrow for our sins. One of the requisites for repentance is the law of love by which Christ at His Judgment will measure all of us. Jesus describes in detail the Terrible or Final Judgment. Compassion and mercy were branded by early philosophers as weakness, but in reality they are the signs of a nobility of heart. Christ has taught us that all those who are filled with love for Him should realize that whatever they do for the poor and the afflicted is done for Him. In describing the Last Judgment, we are led to hope for mercy if we have been charitable to our neighbors. We must always realize that our Lord is merciful in the highest degree, but He is also just.

LENTEN REGULATION FOR THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN CHURCH

The following are the Lenten Regulations for The Archeparchy: The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept....: **SIMPLE ABSTINENCE:** All the faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are bound to abstain from meat. **Simple Abstinence (No Meat) is obligatory on all WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS of The Great Fast. STRICT ABSTINENCE (No Meat or Dairy Products)** is to be observed on the first day of The Great Fast — **PURE MONDAY, March 3 and on HOLY & GREAT FRIDAY, April 18** If you are unable to keep either abstinence for a just cause, you are to **seek a dispensation** from the pastor. These required fasts include all Senior Citizens.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

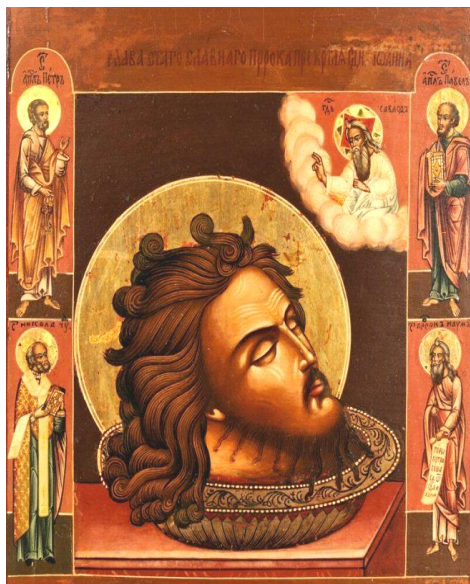
March 2 (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
 March 3 **PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.**
 (MR) 3rd & 6th Greatfast Hours @ 9:00 a.m.
 (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.
 March 5 PURE WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.;
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 March 7 PURE FRIDAY: (MR) 6th & 9th Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 First week of Pirohi Sales.

Saint of the Week — February 25

1st & 2nd Finding of St. John the Baptist's Head

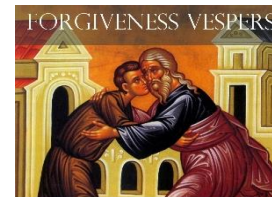
The Great and Glorious Baptist John was beheaded according to the wish and instigation of the wicked Herodias, the wife of Herod. When John was beheaded, Herodias ordered that his head not be buried with his body for she feared that this awesome prophet, somehow, would resurrect. Therefore, she took 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.



General Announcements

FORGIVENESS VESPERS NEXT SUNDAY — Next Sunday Afternoon, **March 2, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.** in McKees Rocks, we will gather to bring in the Penitential Season of The Great Fast. **Anointing with the oil of gladness will be administered to strengthen us on the Lenten Journey.** Confessions will Also be available. Please set aside this time and join us as we embark in this season of penance.



LAST ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSION — 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.**

PLEASE NOTE: CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES MISPRINT — It was brought to our attention that there is a misprint on all MOVABLE holy days and commemorations beginning with Pure Monday (first day of The Great Fast) through All Saints Sunday). A suggestion would be (1) to take your Church Calendar and to place them in its proper place; (2) where there is a Sunday offertory envelope transfer it to the place that does not have one and write the proper date. The Church apologizes for this inconvenience and solicits your understanding.



FINALIZED DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SCHEDULE — *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 different week:

(1) **March 9** — *St. John Cathedral, Munhall* – Homilist: *Fr. David Bosnich*; (2) **March 16** – *SS. Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum* – Homilist: *Fr. Radko Blicher*; (3) **March 23** – *St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair* – Homilist: *Fr. Tyler Wisniewski*; (4) **March 30** – *SS. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne* – Homilist: *Fr. Frank A. Firko*; and (5) **April 6** – *St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia* – Homilist: *Fr. Michael Kunitz*. 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.

There are several 2025 parishioner Church Envelopes and Calendars still awaiting to be taken to a good home. Please call the Church Office to arrange pick up!