

## Parish Offerings – Sunday of Zacchaeus — February 2, 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 (\$2,841) YP (\$3) .....	\$2,844.00
Holy Day (\$454) YP (\$14.52) Christmas (\$10) Easter (\$10) .....	488.52
Special Donation (from Martha Culan) .....	250.00
Votive Candles (\$638.50) Initial (\$55) B.C.W. (\$56) .....	749.50
	<hr/>
	\$4,332.02

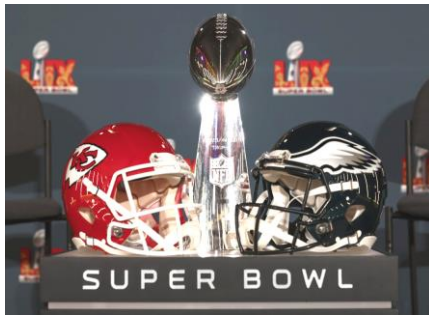
### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$547) YP (\$1) .....	\$548.00
Holy Day (\$65) YP (\$1) .....	66.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvements (\$25) .....	45.00
Votive Candles .....	41.11
	<hr/>
	\$700.11

## Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (33)

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP

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Randy  
(412) 973-1085



North Side Parishioner

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

Humility is not thinking  
less of yourself,  
but thinking  
of yourself less.  
- C.S. Lewis

## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

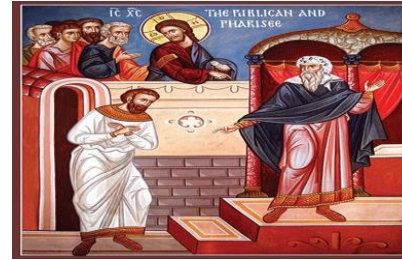
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## FINAL DAY OF FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER

## Sunday of Publican & Pharisee

2<sup>nd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — February 9, 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](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 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).





# General Announcements

**SYMPATHIES EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of (MR)



**Dorothy H. Dobda 90**, at Concordia of St. Joseph, Baden, PA on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. She had resided McKees Rocks. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Moody Funeral Home, Clinton, PA.. and were in private. She is survived by her daughter, Michele (Richard Billy. Our parish extends its most *sincere condolences to the Dobda & Billy Families*. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal rest* to your servant, Dorothy, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'!

**(MR) PIROHI PROJECT WILL RESUME 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 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!**



**(NS) PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING** — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of a meeting slated for today, **Sunday, February 9, 2025 following the Sunday Divine Liturgy**. Major agenda is the 2024 Church Financial Report. Please place this date on your agenda.

**TENTATIVE DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SCHEDULED** — *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 Blichar; (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. This schedule will be discussed at this week's PAC/FAC and Deanery Meetings to reaffirm with certainty the above places.



**(NS) RETURN STEAM BOILER PIPE REPLACED** — We were wondering why our water bill has been extremely high for the past month. Upon investigation under the Church, the 1 ½ inch return boiler water pipe rusted causing us to lose several gallons of H2O. Gravener HVAC Cooling & Heating, Pittsburgh was contacted and replaced the faulty line. Really, don't want to see this bill!

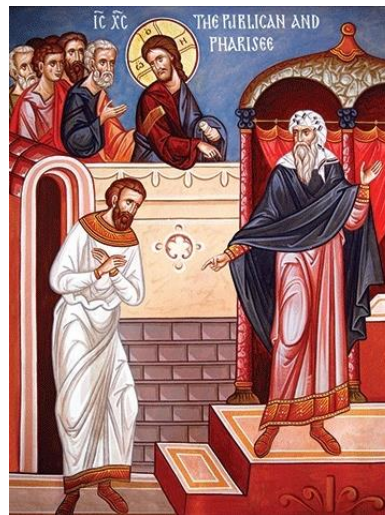


# Today's Gospel Meditation

## PREPARING FOR THE GREAT FAST

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday — HUMILITY before God & Neighbor (Luke 18: 10-14)**

Jesus was constantly combating the self-righteousness that he found such a sinister



enemy of spiritual progress. This parable is addressed directly to the self-righteous. The Pharisee and the tax collector are stereotypes of the good and the sinful person. The Pharisee prays with straightforward gratitude for his healthy spiritual state. There is no sign that he is trying to deceive. Pharisees did fast severely twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, for the good of the whole nation. And there is no reason to doubt that he tithed. *The tragedy is that he does not understand the flawed nature of this prayer*. He is deceiving himself. He does not look upon himself as God's servant but as one who deserves good of God for a job well done. Besides this pride, he is guilty of contempt for the tax collector. The tax collector is conscious of his sinfulness. He knows that he does not

deserve consideration because of anything he has done. The prayer he utters is one of the sources of the ancient Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." It is this helplessness and dependence that opens one to God's grace; it is the spirit of the child. Earlier Jesus commended one who would say, after doing good work that was a duty, "We are unprofitable servants" (17:10). The debate over faith and works is already engaged here (see Rom 3:27-4:5). Jesus Himself draws the shocking conclusion from the parable: the observant Pharisee goes home unjustified; the sinful tax collector is justified. The reversal maxim concludes the story.

## SIMPLE ABSTINENCE IS MITIGATED THIS WEEK

The Church looks upon every Friday as a special day of remembrance of Our Lord's salvific death upon the Precious Cross. Fasting/Abstinence are a reminder that we must be humbly grateful to Jesus for dying for our sins. However, there are certain Fridays throughout the liturgical life that we put aside this penitential character for other didactical expressions. For example, this **Friday following the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee, simple abstinence is mitigated so that we focus on the fact that abstinence is not an end in itself**. Christ is our end and He is the only One Who can save us. We cannot save ourselves even if we were to fast every day! For we who are used to abstaining from meat or doing an equivalent penance each Friday, this is difficult, but necessary to keep us humble and to focus on the value of what fasting and abstinence truly accomplish. It then aids in strengthening us at the appropriate times when we are called to its practice.



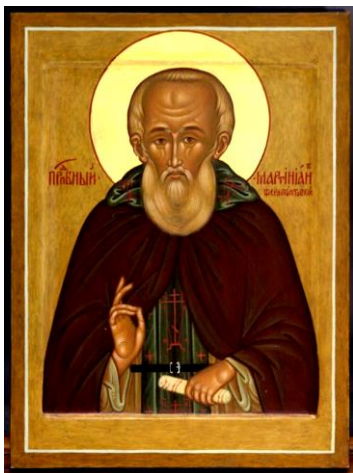
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 21-22 ..... First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
 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) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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) 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.  
 March 7 .....**PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.  
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

## Saint of the Week

### Our Venerable Father Martinian of Caesarea

February 13



Saint Martinian went to live in the wilderness at the age of eighteen, not far from the city of Caesarea in Palestine. For twenty-five years, he devoted himself to ascetic deeds and silence, and he was granted the gift of healing illnesses and casting out demons. However, the Enemy of the race of man would not stop bothering the hermit with various temptations. Once a profligate woman made a wager with some dissolute people that she could seduce Saint Martinian, the fame of whose virtuous life had spread throughout the city. She came to him one night pretending that she had lost her way in the storm, and asking for shelter. The saint let her enter, unable to turn her away in such a storm. He went into his room and locked the door. The wicked guest changed into beautiful clothes and began to tempt the ascetic. When morning came, Saint Martinian came out to send the woman away. **Though he was tempted by the woman's beauty, he was**

**determined not to fall into sin.** Lighting a fire, he stepped into it, saying, "You want me to burn with temptation, and want to lead me into the fires of Hell. I will not let you. Instead, I will burn for my virginity and save my soul." The woman came to see how evil she was. She repented and asked the saint to guide her onto the way of salvation. He told her to go to Bethlehem, to Saint Paula (January 26). There she lived as a nun for twelve years in strict asceticism until her blessed end. The woman's name was Zoe. Saint Martinian went to an uninhabited rocky island, and lived on it under the open sky for several years, nourished by the provisions brought by a certain sailor from time to time. In return the monk wove baskets for him. Once a powerful storm wrecked a ship, and a woman named Photina floated on pieces of the wreckage to the island of Saint Martinian. He helped her to survive the island. "Remain here," he told her, "for here is bread and water, and in two months a boat will come." Then he jumped into the sea and swam off. Two dolphins carried him to dry land. Thereafter, Saint Martinian led the life of a wanderer. Later, he came to Athens and fell ill. Sensing the approach of death, he went into church and lay upon the floor. God revealed to the Bishop of Athens who Saint Martinian was, and the bishop buried his body with honor. This occurred around the year 422.

## General Announcements

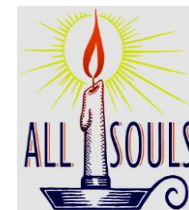
**SOLEMNLY BLESSED CANDLES CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE** — It is an ancient



tradition of our Byzantine Catholic Church to have candles solemnly blessed on February 2, the *Feast of the Encounter of the Lord with Simeon*. The Solemn Blessing of Candles symbolize "Christ the True Light that has come into the world." Candles are now available for purchase following the Divine Liturgy. Every home should have a blessed sacramental candle to be used throughout the year such as on anniversaries of Baptism, Chrismation, First Eucharist, Wedding Anniversaries, passing of a loved one, storms, etc.

**REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED DEPARTED — FIRST ALL SOULS FORTHCOMING**

— The first of five All Souls commemoration will take place on **Feb. 21-22**. You are encouraged to remember your loved ones by submitting their first names on the envelope in your contribution box. They need your help! If you have participated last year, you need only to write new names. The Church has the previous names. It is so important that we remember and commemorate our loved ones who have gone into eternity!



**PRE-CANA MARRIAGE SESSIONS** — The Office of Religious Education offers a Pre-Cana Program for the Archeparchy once each year. This year's Pre-Cana 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](http://archpitt.org) — Office of Religious Education link.**

**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.



**HOUSE BLESSING NEAR CONCLUSION** — As we renew the insurance on



our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection which is of greater importance and most effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office and set up a time for the pastor's visitation. The plan is to complete all house blessings prior to The Great Fast Season.