

Parish Offerings – 36th Sunday After Pentecost — January 26, 2025 **HOLY**

“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 (\$2,007) YP (\$17.06) Holy Day (\$65)	\$2,089.06
Special Donation (M/M James Swanney)	80.00
Initial (\$31) B.C.W. (\$42)	73.00
Votive Candles	95.00
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	\$2,337.06

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

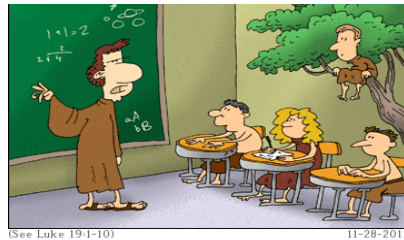
Regular Offering (\$615.10) YP (\$2)	\$617.10
Holy Day	45.00
Initial (\$50) Utilities (\$35) Improvements (\$20) B.C.W. (\$42)	147.00
Votive Candles	96.85
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	\$905.95

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (30)

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (76); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs — Thrs, Jan 30 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (8); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (9)



YOUNG ZACCHAEUS IN SCHOOL



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



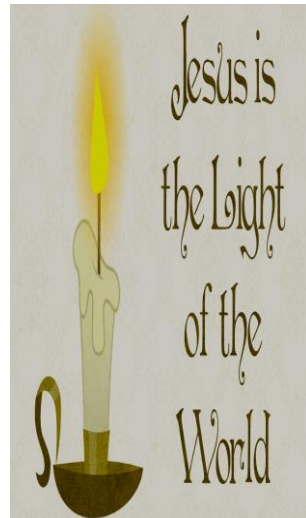
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

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 FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER

Sunday of Zacchaeus — 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday

February 2, 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 2, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 5



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

Feast of Encounter of the Lord Sunday of Zacchaeus — 1st Pregreat Sunday

SUN., Feb 2 *** 8:50 a.m. (MR) Special Intentions Fr. Firko
*** 10:50 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Synaxis of the Elder Simeon & Prophetess Anna

Mon., Feb 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John J. Koa, III Fr. Firko
(4th ann of passing)

Tue., Feb 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Janice Abraham Alexander Family

Wed., Feb 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Susan Gramata Cusatis Son: Bill
(9th ann of passing)

Thrs, Feb 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Robert Bordas Hubal Family

First Friday of the Month

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): in in
reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus & for victims of DC Plane Crash

Fri., Feb 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Annamae Smyda MaryEllen & John W. Oslick
(5th ann of passing)

Sat., Feb 8 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Shirley Kalnas Emma Ceasar

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Encounter Postfestive — Publican & Pharisee

4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Final Day of the Encounter of the Lord Sunday of Publican & Pharisee — 2nd Pregreat Sunday

SUN., Feb 9 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Regina M. Mell Deacon Luke, Maria & Anita
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop Valeriano & Kallop Families
(11th ann of passing 2/19)

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 2 – MARIANNE FARABAUGH, Peggi Lucas, Rosemarie Nazak; Feb 4 – Madelyn Nazak, Kerri Poloka; Feb 7 – THERESA FECIK; Feb 8 – Peggy McCusker, Maria Varga.

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

HOME: Dolores Babin, Margaret Beliunas, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTI, KIRK LATTI, 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) Waurthier.

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. Why do we praise God? **Answer from a Catholic Apologist:** Imagine someone who never grew up being told to say thank you. Such a person would never be really be appreciative of anything he received in life because he would simply expect it to be done. He would have no appreciation for the hard work, sacrifices, or generosity of others. And while others might simply shrug off his lack of appreciation, he missing out on a part of life that comes from appreciating others and being grateful for what we receive. The Anaphora at the Divine Liturgy speaks well when it states: "Let us give thanks to the Lord." We give praise first and foremost because it is right to praise God's goodness. After all, God could be less merciful and still be perfectly just. The praise we give to God is partly our just duty to God but also helps to keep us mindful of God's goodness and love. If we fail to appreciate God's goodness and mercy and fail to grasp his generosity in our lives, we stunt our spiritual growth. We would risk falling into the sin of presumption and losing our salvation.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

February 2 — February 8, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Margaret & George Kurtanich** (wed. ann.)

offered by Children

(NS): **In memory of Helen (Seman) Lucy** (birthday 2/9)

General Announcements



CONDOLENCES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of (MR) **Michael John Sosnak, Sr., 79**, of Zelienople, PA. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Boylan Funeral Home, Zelienople. Following a blessing service, the interment was at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville on Jan.

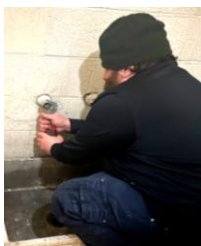
23rd. He is survived by his wife: Carol (Mochio) and two children. Among his siblings is parishioner, MaryEllen (John W.) Oslick. Our parish extends its most *sincere condolences to the Sosnak & Oslick Families*. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal rest* to your servant, Michael, and remember him forever. Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'! A sympathy card may be sent to the Oslick Family: 18046 E. Mansfield Ave., Aurora, CO 80013.

(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!**



(MR & NS) UPCOMING PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS — 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.

(MR) SCHOOL SLOP-SINK FACET RECENTLY REPLACED — The original facet located in the classrooms boy's restroom commenced severely leaking water over the weekend nearly 3 weeks ago. *Armstrong Comfort Solutions (formally Matt Mertz Plumbing)* was contacted to remedy the situation. The current facet was broken and had to be replaced. Since it is of commercial grade and had to be a special order, the total cost of the invoice with labor totaled \$1,454.44. Also, upon examination of the main water spread in the school boiler room, it was evident that

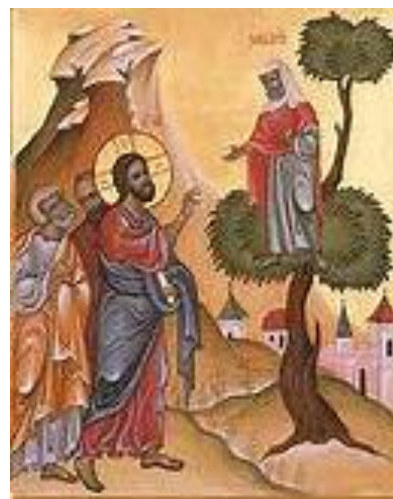


valves were leaking water and have to be replaced along with 2" & 3" brass pipe that also leads into the Kitchen. It is essentially necessary that this be attended to immediately. If left undone, the plumber indicates a catastrophe is imminent. This is also of a commercial grade labor.

Today's Gospel Meditation The 1st of Five Sundays Prior to the Great Fast

The **DESIRE** to Follow Jesus (Luke 19: 1-10)

Today commences the first of five Sundays in preparation to the Lenten



Season which is still one month away. The theme of "Repentance" is set before us and continues for two forthcoming Sundays. Today lesson is the first Prebreakfast **Sunday of Zacchaeus**. His name means PURE or JUSTIFIED. HE was the wealthy man of Jerusalem who gathered revenue for the Roman government, but who became a disciple of Christ (Luke 19:1-10). A "chief publican," Zacchaeus might have been of a higher grade than Matthew. Although not one of Christ's expected converts, Zacchaeus had heard much about Christ and **DESIRED** to see Him for himself. When ultimately Christ came his way there were two obstacles in his way—the crowd, and his own short stature. But he quickly overcame both hindrances. Our Lord called Zacchaeus down and invited Himself to his house. Zacchaeus was a sinner and Christ saved him. Quickly Zacchaeus revealed the depth of his **DESIRE** and surrendered to his newly found Master. There came an immediate and generous restitution. His **DESIRE** for Jesus teaches us that through Repentance we take our first serious step to surrender ourselves to Him and follow it by good deeds.



LITURGICAL TELECASTS CAN BE REPLAYED — Perhaps many of you are unaware that the You Tube telecasts of our Weekend & Week Day Liturgical Service

can be replayed throughout the day. This can be accomplished by going to the You Tube channel (see the address on the front cover of the S.O.T.) Once there choose one of the several icons and double click it. Once you have accomplished this, place your cursor over the enlarged icon, and notice that a long red horizontal bar will extend beneath it. Place your cursor on the red dot at your right, and drag it to your left. You should begin to see video action of the day's celebration. The live stream continues throughout the day for those who

wish to listen to our Byzantine Catholic liturgical music both in English and Church Slavonic. We hope that you are enjoying our LIVE & ENCOURING STREAMING. Share this information with your relatives and friends that live out of state and/or country

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 2 Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 a.m.; (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.
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) 1st & 3rd 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) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.
(NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

SOLEMN HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

The Encounter of the Lord — February 2

The **fortieth day** after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the



Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself. "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2 & Leviticus 12:2-7). Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver did not, in anyway, want to transgress His own Law whom He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zachariah, the father of John the Forerunner, was on duty in the Temple ["serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" St. Luke 1:8]. Zachariah placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion, two unusual persons appeared in the Temple: the Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess

Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: "Now, Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation" (St. Luke 2: 29-30). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" (St. Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayer recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One. The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zachariah because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this is the new king

about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime, the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Encounter of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times but the solemn celebration of this day was established in the year 544 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

General Announcements

SOLEMN BLESSING OF CANDLES TODAY — Today, **Feb. 2**, is the Feast of **THE ENCOUNTER OF THE LORD**. The Righteous Simeon was promised by God that he would not pass onto eternity until he had first seen the Messiah in the flesh. It is a day that Byzantine Catholics acknowledge Jesus coming to ENCOUNTER His people. Christ is the revelation light to the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel. Jesus comes as the **LIGHT OF THE WORLD**. It is on this day that candles are solemnly blessed.



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 — Office of Religious Education link.**

ADDITIONAL SANCTUARY LAMPS AVAILABLE IN 2025 FOR



BOTH PARISHES — Sanctuary Lamps are continue to be 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

whom it is that is offering.

HOUSE BLESSINGS COMING TO AN END — The Great Fast Season is rapidly coming upon us. Our pastor would like to conclude all house blessings in the next few weeks. It is highly recommended to have your house blessed. Please contact the Church office and schedule.

INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE— If MR Members would like a record of their 2024 individual financial report, please contact the office between 9:30 am to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If no answer, please leave a request on the voice-mail. Since there are few NS Members, Individual Financial reports are available in the narthex. Please discontinue using your 2024 envelopes. Your number may have changed!

