

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Cheese-Fare — March 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 (\$3,118) YP (\$9.10)	\$3,127.10
Holy Days (\$82) Easter Décor (\$20)	102.00
Initial (\$36) Eastern European Collection (\$10)	46.00
Votive Candles	252.50
	<hr/>
	\$3,527.60

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$550) YP (\$2)	\$552.00
Holy Days (\$30) Improvements (\$40).....	70.00
Votive Candles	71.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$693.50

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (32);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (79); (NS) 11:00 am (26)

Forgiveness Vespers – (MR) 2:00 pm (15)

Pure Monday — (MR) 9:00 am (2); (NS) 6:00 pm (6)

Pure Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (12); Pure Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (9)





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



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Triumph of True Worship — March 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 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)*

March 9, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 11



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP			

1st Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 9 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Regina Mell (birthday) Kurt W. Perschy
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop (birthday 3/7) Valeriano & Kallop Families
4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Cathedral, Munhall.

Mon, Mar 10, (8) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Demitri Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(60th ann of passing 3/9)

Tue, Mar 11 (9) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ian K. Trapl (birthday 3/18) Family

WED, Mar 12 (10) REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)
8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours
6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Thurs, Mar 13 (11) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Gary S. Hubal Family

FRI. Mar 14 (12) REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)
8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours
6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/reading of Hramoty

2nd UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar 15 (13) *** 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Palsied Man — Second Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Margaret Cifrutlak Hubal Family

THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

2nd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 16 (14) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Shirley Kalnas Family
(1st ann of passing 3/18)

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum 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

Mar 10 — Michael Kachuta; **Mar 12** — Ray Zoldos; **Mar 13** — David Kacsur

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, Cindy 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. Is it true that a person who is legally divorced cannot go to confession or receive Communion until the marriage is annulled? **Answer from a Catholic Apologist:** No. For starters, divorce is not always a sin. But even in instances where it is a sin, absolution for the truly repentant can be attained through confession. A bigger problem arises when a divorced Catholic without an annulment attempts marriage again. Any such marriage attempted outside the Church is not valid, so, if he lives with his new "spouse" as though they are married, he lives in a state of objective sin. When a person chooses to live in a state of objective sin, he cannot attain absolution through confession or receive Communion as long as he remains in his present state. The wise thing to do in such a situation is to commit to abstinence until (if ever) his prior marriage is declared null and his current marriage is blessed (convalidated)—then he can go to confession and resume going to Communion.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 9 — March 15, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Regina Mell** (birthday 3/9)

offered by Eileen & Kevin Finnegan

(NS): **In memory of Esther M. Kallop** (birthday 3/7)

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2025



McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUE PRIOR TO HOLY WEEK — The Pirohi Project will continue sales on the following Friday dates: **Mar. 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!**



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 **\$2.00.** 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!



THE RETURN OF THE MAYOR OF KINGSTOWN PRODUCTION — *Paramount-Plus* has returned shooting its most recent episodes in The Bottoms. Once again, our Holy Ghost School has been solicited as a fictitious police station in the made-up city of Kingstown, MI. Our Church School has been part of this production for past series. The movie is a crime and drama thriller with its grand star: Jeremy Renner. The next shooting production will be on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.



North Side Announcements

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Louise Georgevich, 98,** of St. Mary, PA who passed away at her son's Sewickley home on Thursday, February 27, 2025. Funeral arrangements are handled by Schellhaas Funeral Home, Sewickley, PA She is survived by her Son: Dr. Philip Georgevich, and two Dgtrs: Gloria & Mary Louise (care-giver). A Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks on Tuesday, March 4. Interment took place at St. Mary Cemetery, St. Mary PA (Elk County). Our parish extends its most *sincere condolences to the Georgevich Families.* In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Louise, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'!

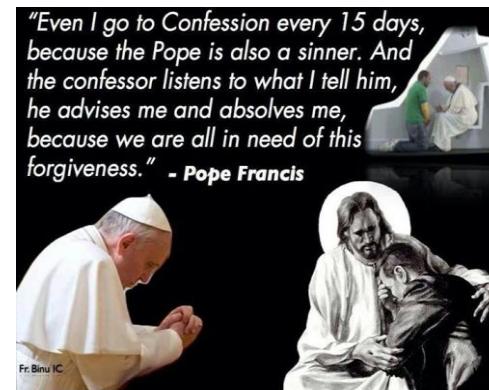


Come and join us on Lenten Wednesdays & Fridays for the Penitential Hours to cleanse our souls and bodies by ascetical Great Metany acts of penance at 8:00 a.m.

Let us continue to pray for the healing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis!

THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

The preceding abridged text is taken from an informal lecture Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira gave on February 23, 1964. Its message is just as pertinent today.



It is said that today's world is profoundly against penance and mortification. This is quite true We tend to be against penance because of the principle behind it. This consists in the fact that man is a sinner. **All sin is an insult to Divine justice and majesty, and therefore the sinner must make reparation** by suffering in proportion to the delight that he should not have had but did. Penance therefore is a kind of restitution. Just as a thief who steals money is required to repay it, so also from the standpoint of the designs of Divine Providence, the sinner who steals illicit pleasures to which he is not entitled must also pay something back. According to the scales of Divine justice, this is done by suffering in proportion to the harm that was done. In the act of penance, we find recognition of sin, the gravity of sin, and God's offended majesty. We realize that our offense cannot be appeased with empty words and ideas but with self-control and self-imposed suffering in reparation for what was done. More importantly, penance recalls to mind that **we are conceived in Original Sin and thus have disorderly instincts that must be overcome and fought.** Even when there is no fault of our own, it is often advisable, and many times indispensable, to crush the impulses of these disordered senses by doing something that breaks the cravings of the flesh and thus to practice penance. There is nothing more opposed to the modern mentality than the idea that man is weak, inclined to evil, and must fight his instincts and senses. Watch any modern movie, open any novel or romance or enter any public place and we see that the idea of penance is far away. **Human pride, even more than sensuality, rebels against penance** God wants us to have the right spirit, principles, the ideas of penance and not just the concrete acts. When penance is done in the right spirit, it above all punishes our pride and makes us bow to the reality of human misery in general and also our individual misery.

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*).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 9	I Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Cathedral, Munhall, PA @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.
March 12	II LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
March 14 ..	II LENTEN FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/Hramoty — NO MEAT. Pirohi Sales.
March 15	2 nd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
March 16	III Deanery Penitential Vespers at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum, PA @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.
March 19	III LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — NO MEAT.
March 21	III LENTEN FRIDAY: (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/Hramoty — NO MEAT. Pirohi Sales.
March 22	3 rd Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
March 25	Feast of the Annunciation — Wednesday (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
March 26 ...	IV PENITENTIAL WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
March 28	IV PENITENTIAL FRIDAY: (MR) 6 th & 9 th Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/reading of Hramoty Pirohi Sales.

Faith Event of the Week

The Triumph of True Worship Celebrated Today Commemorated on the First Sunday of The Great Fast



A "guiles image" is so important in our relationship with God as in Nathaniel's case. An Icon (meaning "image") depicts a guiles character of its representative created in God's image. In the Old Testament, due to the danger of idolatry, God forbade the Jews to worship the "carved image or likeness" of any creature (Ex. 20:4-5; Duet. 4:15-20). Early Christians, too, in the face of paganism and idolatry, adhered to these Mosaic ordinances. After the victory of Christianity over paganism (313 A.D.), when Christian theology was sufficiently developed, the Fathers of the Church gradually admitted the public veneration of icons. *The iconoclastic fury of Emperor Leo the Isaurian (717-741), during which the leading defenders of the icons were St. Germanus of Constantinople (d. 733) and St. John Damascene (d. 749) made the Church define her teachings. In reply, at the seventh Ecumenical Council of Nicea (787), the Church's teaching concerning the veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed. The Fathers explained that the veneration of icons, theologically, was based on the mystery of incarnation, since in the person of Jesus Christ we received revelation not only of the "Word of God" (Jn. 1:1-14), but also of the "Image of God," as attested by St. Paul saying that Jesus is the "image (eikon) of the unseen God." (Col.1:15) Jesus Himself testified: "To have seen Me is to have seen the Father!" (Jn. 14:9).*

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

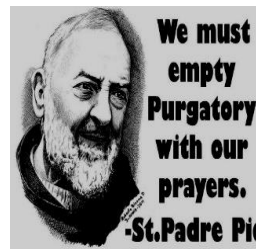
Wednesdays not Fridays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m. prior to the Presanctified Divine Liturgy; these are days of Simple Abstinence (no meat permitted) for all ages

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 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!



2ND ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK — During the Great Fast Season, the Church, once again, is remembering 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 four special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. *The third commemoration is (NS) March 21 & (MR) March 22.*



JOIN THE DEANERY FOR SUNDAY PENITENTIAL VESPERS — *The Great Fast Deanery Vespers are celebrated each Sunday afternoon 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.



GIFT OF MARY PRESENTATION INSPIRES ALMSGIVING PROGRM — The Gift of Mary is an organization with a shelter for homeless women in downtown Pittsburgh. Our



Byzan-TEEN Youth Group discussed that they participate in another year of almsgiving by doing something to assist in this ministry. During the Great Fast it had been decided to collect 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. **DON'T FORGET**, our BYZAN-TEENS will have a Haluski Sale next Sunday.