

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Meat-Fare — February 23, 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 (\$2,022) YP (\$9.07)	\$2,031.07
Votive Candles	160.51
	<hr/>
	\$2,191.58

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$659.30) YP (\$1)	\$660.30
Holy Day (\$35) Easter Décor (\$5)	40.00
Eastern Europe Collection (\$10) Utilities (\$60) Improvement (\$30) ...	100.00
Votive Candles	88.50
	<hr/>
	\$888.80

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (29)

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (71); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)

1st All Souls Commemoration Fri (NS) 6:00 p.m. (4); Sat (MR) 9:00 a.m. (12)



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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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

Sunday of Cheese-Fare

5th & Final Greatfast Sunday — March 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)*

March 2, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 10



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

BEGINNING THE HOLY & GREAT 40 DAYS FAST

REQUIRED DAY of STRICT ABSTINENCE — NO MEAT OR DAIRY PRODUCTS PERMITTED

PURE MON, MAR 3, (1) 9:00 a.m. (MR) 3rd & 6th Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:00 p.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies
*** Holy Communion will be distributed at both Penitential Services

PURE TUE, Mar 4 (2) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew + Joseph + John Hrivnak Nephew: Fr. Firko

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE WED, Mar 5 (3) 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

PURE THRS, Mar 6 (4) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Barry Smyda (7th ann 3/8) MaryEllen & John W. Oslick

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

PURE FRI, Mar 7 (5) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Commemoration of the Miracle of the Holy Great-Martyr Theodore Tyro

PURE SAT, Mar 8 (6) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Triumph of True Worship — First Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Loretta Yakubik (17th ann of pass. 3/13) Dgtr: Evelyn

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.

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 3 – Cecelia Colbert; **Mar 4** – Leyte Tomchak; **Mar 7** – Andrew Hrishenko, Madelyn Usouski.

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.

ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): Cindy Meaders.

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

March 2 — March 8 , 2025

(MR): In memory of Hubal, Bradley & Stefanick Families
offered by Hubal Family

(NS): In memory of Madelyn Harding

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Dgtr: Tamara

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2025

McKees Rocks Announcements

THIS WEEK: 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!**

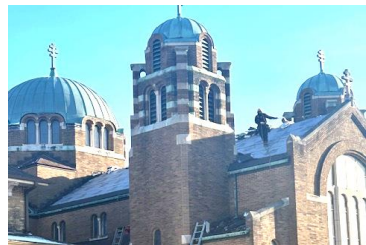


SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF GRATITUDE — Our Parish recently received a substantial donation **in honor of parishioner, Anastasia Bedard** from the N. David and Janet M. Family Foundation in the amount of \$2,000.00. We are truly humbled by this monetary gift. May God grant to all involved health and happiness for many years!

North Side Announcements

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **David Spontak, 78**, of West View who passed away at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Funeral arrangements are handled by the Thomas P. Kunsak, Brighton Heights. He is survived by his wife: Sandra and several siblings including our parish vocation, the Very Reverend Father James A. Spontak. He was also a cousin to our cantor, Edward (Mary Frances) Spontak, Sr. There will be no visitation. A Funeral Mass will be offered at a later date at the Regina Coeli Roman Rite Church, Bellevue. You may send a sympathy card to *Fr. Spontak c/o SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 143 Church Road, Portage, PA 15946.* Our parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Spontak Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, David, and remember him forever. *Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'!*

GRATITUDE TO A SPECIAL ROOF DONATION — Prayers for a “Dream Come True.” One of our former and longest assigned pastors (for app. 30 years), Monsignor Peter P. Tay’s pastoral concern allocated a large donation to Holy Ghost. **WITH THIS GENEROUS GIFT OUR ROOF HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.** The capital in our Archieparchial Savings and Share Account, has now been moved to our *Holy Ghost Steam-Boiler Fund.* It will soon have to be replaced since we have been having mechanical problems with it. Thank you Monsignor Tay! Please offer a prayer for him! May God grant a blessed repose to Monsignor Tay, and remember him forever! *Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'.*



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

TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

The 5th & Final Pregreat Fast Sunday — Beginning the Penitential Journey with the right Attitude & Disposition (Matthew 6: 14-21)

What do we mean by “Cheese-fare” and to “Give Up?”

Cheese-fare Sunday indicates a farewell to dairy products just as last



week's Meat-Fare said farewell to meat products until Resurrection Sunday. As in the early Christian Church dairy products and meat were no longer eaten throughout The Great Fast Season and throughout Holy Week. Although mandatory Church laws have been abrogated as to its obligatory nature, it still encourages us to do penance the days prescribed (Pure Monday & Great Friday); and NO MEAT on Wednesdays and Fridays. Most importantly, we are all called to Fast from SIN and GIVE UP negativity by PUTTING ON virtue

and being positive. Today, the Church invokes us to remember what participation in sin did — expelling Adam and Eve from Paradise. It will also keep us from entering the heavenly kingdom.

ST. BASIL THE GREAT ON FASTING: “*There is both a physical and a spiritual fast.*

In the physical fast the body abstains from food and drink. In the spiritual fast, the faster abstains from evil intentions, words and deeds. One who truly fasts abstains from anger, rage, malice, and vengeance. One who truly fasts abstains from idle and foul talk, empty rhetoric, slander, condemnation, flattery, lying and all manner of spiteful talk. In a word, a real faster is one who withdraws from all evil. As much as you subtract from the body, so much will you add to the strength of the soul. By fasting it is possible both to be delivered from future evils and to enjoy the good things to come.”



CALCULATING 40 DAYS OF LENT IN THE BYZANTINE RITE — From Pure Monday, March 3 to Palm Friday,

April 11 constitute the 40 days of the Great Fast. Holy Week is not part of the Great Fast Season. The 40 days prepare us to cleanse and purify our souls and bodies from sin so that from Lazarus Saturday (April 12) we are made worthy to walk vicariously with Our Lord in the remaining 8 days (especially through the special liturgical church services) by comforting our Lord through His salutary Passion, Death, Entombment and Radiant Resurrection. Let us all individually and collectively take a

more serious approach in this part of our relationship to our Awesome Triune God.

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;
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 First week of Pirohi Sales.

Saint of the Week — March 8

Miracle of St. Theodore Tyro on Pure Saturday



Fifty years after the death of St Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians. Knowing that Christians would be hungry after fasting through Pure Week, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of The Great Fast to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. St Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva). In memory of this occurrence, the Byzantine Catholic Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of The Great Fast. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the

Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by St John of Damascus, may be sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great-Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of The Great Fast was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397). In imitation of this ancient custom be creative many have made this Lenten dish to strengthen them during the course of the Holy and Great 40 days Fast.

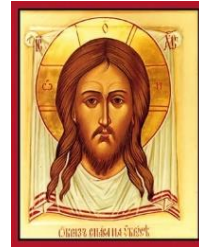
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

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)

NO MEAT OR DAIRY PRODUCTS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST

General Announcements

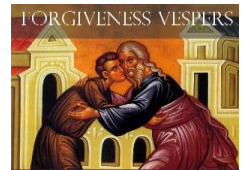
LENTEN REGULATION FOR THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN CHURCH — The



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.

(MR) FORGIVENESS VESPERS THIS AFTERNOON — This 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.



CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATIONS

— During the Great Fast Season, the Church is once again remembering in a special way 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*

second commemoration is (NS) March 11 & (MR) March 12.

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.