

Parish Offerings – 2nd Sunday of the Great Fast — March 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 (\$2,199) YP (\$6)	\$2,205.00
Easter Décor	445.00
Eastern European Collection (\$65) Coffee Social (\$42)	107.00
Votive Candles	117.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,874.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$688) YP (\$2)	\$690.00
Easter Décor (\$130) Utilities (\$20) Improvements (\$20)	170.00
Eastern European Collection	25.00
Votive Candles	71.50
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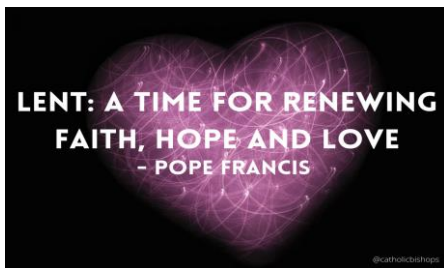
Church Attendance Last Week \$986.00

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (28);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (74); (NS) 11:00 am (20)

(MR) Wed. Presanctified Divine Liturgy – 7:00 pm (19); (NS) Fri. 6:00 pm. (15)

2nd All Souls Saturday — (MR) 9:00 am (12)



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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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

Third Sunday of the Great Fast Cross-Veneration Sunday — March 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)

March 23, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 13



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

CROSS VENERATION SUNDAY

3rd Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 23 (21) *** 8:50 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

*** 10:50 a.m. (NS) + Anna + Mike Kacmarak Family

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair, PA preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar 24 (22) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michele J. (Terrek) Chiavetta Barbara & Peter Stecko

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanlje

Tue, Mar 25 (23) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Ann Ones (6th ann of passing) Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed, Mar 26 (24) 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

Thrs, Mar 27 (25) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Gary S. Hubal (5th ann of passing 3/28) Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Fri, Mar 28 (26) 10:00 a.m. Pastor attending Funeral of + Fr. Simeon Sibenik, Warren, OH



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

4th UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat, Mar 29 (27) 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of (MR) Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy St. John Climacus Sunday — Fourth Sunday of The Great Fast

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

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS SUNDAY

4th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 30 (28) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Beverly Harsh (birthday 4/3) Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay + David Spontak

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia, PA 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 24 — Richard Billy, Ryan Zoldos; **Mar 25** — Wallace Michalisk; **Mar 26** — James Gunkel, AIMEE HELMS; **Mar 28** — LEAH TRAPL; **MAR 29** — EMILIA HARPER.

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

HOME: Dolores Babin, Margaret Beliuinas, Dolores & William Boras, Monica Lemesch, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL & 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. Why can't we eat meat on Wednesday and Fridays in Lent? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Church asks us to abstain from meat on these days as a means of "offering our bodies as a living sacrifice" in union with Christ (Rom. 12:1; CCC 1434). The purpose is not to make life tough for us. The Church is truly working in our best interest and only asks us to do what is ultimately good for us. It has always been a tradition of the Church from apostolic times to practice penance on Wednesdays and Fridays as reported in the early 1st century writing known as the Didache. Both days remind us to do penance since it was the day of Our Lord's Betrayal & Crucifixion, the ultimate sacrifice. We do penance for several reasons: (1) As a way to atone for sins of the past, both ours and others (Col. 1:24); (2) To lean to master our inclinations towards sin (Jas. 1: 2-4); (3) To help us prepare for Holy Week and the Feast of the Radiant Resurrection; (4) As a sign of our conversion; and (5) As a way to purify our soul (CCC 2043).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 23 — March 29, 2025

(MR): For all Ill Parishioners of Both Parishes

offered by Anonymous

(NS): In memory of Infant Vivianne Grace Trapl

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Mom, Dad & Sister

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2025

McKees Rocks Announcements

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of Gerald D. DiDesiderio, 94, of McKees Rocks, PA on Saturday, March 8, 2025. He was preceded in passing by his beloved wife, Dolores "Dee" Cassidy. He is survived by several children among whom I parishioner, Margaret (Nicholas) Nazak, and several grandchildren especially parishioners Nicholas and Madelyn Nazak. He also had several great-grandchildren. Funeral arrangements were handled by McDermott Funeral Home, Kennedy Township. A Funeral Mass was offered at St. Mary Roman Rite Church, McKees Rocks Friday, March 14 followed by interment at Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township. Our parish extends its most sincere condolences to the DiDesiderio and Nazak Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Gerald, and remember him forever. Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUE ONWARD TO HOLY WEEK — The Pirohi Project will continue sales on the following Friday dates: **Mar. 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 MAYOR OF KINGSTOWN WILL SHOOT ITS ONGOING SERIES THIS WEEK — *Paramount-Plus* will shoot its most recent episodes in our Holy Ghost Parking Lot this Tuesday afternoon, March 25. Our school represents a fictitious police station. It has been part of this production for past several series. The movie is a crime and drama thriller with its grand star: Jeremy Renner. Our parking lot and school will be on standby until the end of June for return episodes if needed.



North Side Announcements

SEARCH FOR CONTINUAL WATER-LEAK CONTINUES TO MYSTIFY ITS SOURCE — Pittsburgh Water has informed us of a water-leak somewhere on the Church premise. We thought that we solved the problem by replacing a 1 ½ inch commercial pipe that was the problem. We were informed by PW that we were still losing water. Armstrong Comfort Solutions arrived to offer assistance but could not find the leak. Our Church water bill for the past two months has been app. \$800.00. That's over a week's collection. In the meantime, we will be turning the main water source off except for Church services. We will be contacting PW to investigate the condition of the water meter. Please pray that we locate the problem.

We are in need of Pussy Willows for Palm (Flowery) Sunday

Third Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Cross-Veneration Sunday: We Bow to Your Cross, O Master"

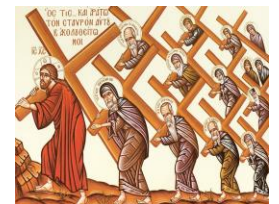
(Mark 8: 34 – 9:1)

On the Third Sunday of The Great Fast, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.



What Does It Mean to take Up the Cross Daily?

What does this mean, "take up a cross"? It means you will bear with whatever is troublesome, and in this very act you will be following Christ. When you begin to follow Christ according to His teaching and precepts, you will find many people contradicting you and standing in your way, many who will not only deride you but even persecute you. Moreover, this is true, not only of pagans who are outside the church, but also of those who seem to be in it visibly.... Although, they glory in merely the title of Christian, they continually persecute faithful Christians. Such belong to the members of the church in the same way that bad blood is in the body. Therefore, if you wish to follow Christ, do not delay in carrying His cross; tolerate sinners, but do not yield to them. Do not let the false happiness of the wicked corrupt you. You do well to despise all things for the sake of Christ, in order that you may be fit for his companionship. *St. Caesarius of Arles sermons 159.5.*



Pope Teaches Byzantine Form of the "Sign of the Cross"

At the beginning of the 10th century, **Pope Leo IV**, instructed his clergy to hold their fingers in the proper manner when blessing the Sacred Gifts, with two fingers outstretched, and the thumb hidden behind, between them, by which the Trinity is symbolized. He instructed that the people of the Faith should imitate the example of the Priests. By means of the Sign of the Cross to express the elements of our Faith. **The thumb and first two fingers joined together indicate belief in the Three Divine Persons as One God. The two remaining fingers lying in the palm of the hand to signify the Divine and the Human natures of Christ united in His One Person - Pope Leo IV (928 a.d.)**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 25 Feast of the Annunciation — Wednesday (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 March 26 ... IV PENITENTIAL WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 March 28 IV PENITENTIAL FRIDAY: Fr. Firko attends Funeral of + Fr. Sibenik, Warren, OH (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. w/reading of Hramoty
 March 29 4th Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
 April 2 V Penitential WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 pm (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 April 3 Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ Prostrations (MR) @ 8:00 a.m. (MR) Divine Liturgy @ *** 1:00 p.m.
 April 4 V Penitential Friday (MR) 6th & 9th Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; ... (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Akathistos Hymn to the Mother of God. Lenten Pirohi Sales.
 April 5 Akathistos Saturday imploring aid of the Theotokos in our ascetical practices (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 April 9 .VI Penitential Wednesday: (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 April 11 **The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.** (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 12 Lazarus Saturday *** (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 April 13 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows. **Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions** (NS) **Special Confessions following the Divine Liturgy.**

HOLY (PASSION) WEEK SCHEDULE

(April 14 through April 19)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Thursday. ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Friday . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Saturday (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m; (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m.

Vigil of the Resurrection Feast — Great & Holy Sat. Evening (NS) Resurrectional Matins only & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

APRIL 20 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

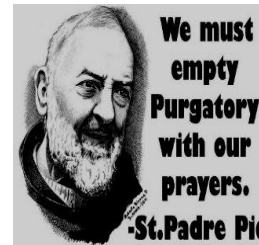
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

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! Thus far, our attendance has been fair. In reality, it's a special time to incorporate an extra day of public worship into our 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!

4TH 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 so that they may be included in the next four special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days to pray for our beloved and for All Souls.



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:; (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. Let us support our TEENS!, and join them in giving alms.

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