

Parish Offerings – 3rd Sunday of the Great Fast — March 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 (\$1,904) YP (\$6.04) | \$1,910.04 |
| Holy Day (\$151) Easter Décor (\$98) | 249.00 |
| Initial (\$20) Coffee Social (\$4) | 24.00 |
| Votive Candles | 152.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$2,335.04 |

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

| | |
|---|----------|
| Regular Offering (\$563) YP (\$2) | \$565.00 |
| Holy Day \$30) Easter Décor (\$25) | 55.00 |
| Utilities (\$40) Improvements (\$20)..... | 60.00 |
| Votive Candles | 62.00 |
| | <hr/> |

Church Attendance Last Week \$742.00

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (79); (NS) 11:00 am (24)

Annunciation — Tues. (MR) 9:00 am (11); (NS) 6:00 pm (10)

(MR) Wed. Presanctified Divine Liturgy – 7:00 pm (17); (NS) Fri. 6:00 pm. (n/a)

4th All Souls Saturday — (MR) 9:00 am (n/a)



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



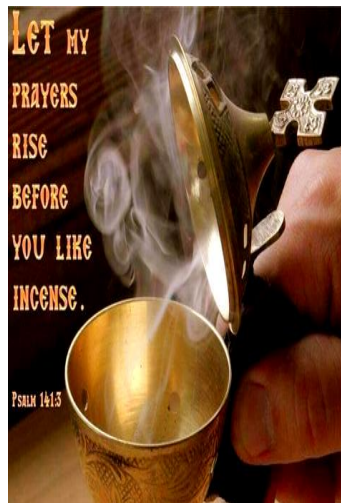
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

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
#172370

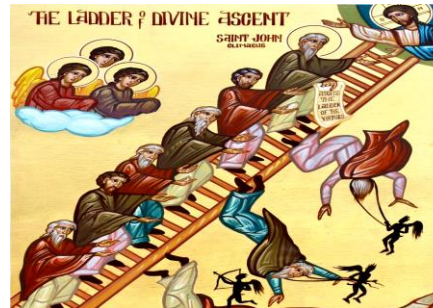


HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast St. John Climacus Sunday — March 30, 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.

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 30, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 14



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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 SS. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne, PA preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar 31 (29) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Grandmother: Gloria of Paul A. Rubish

Tue, Apr 1 (30) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh (5th ann of passing) Judy Gamble

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed, Apr 2 (31) 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

Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Thrs, Apr 3 (32) ***Our Pastor will be out of town for a funeral in Hermitage. The intention for this day will be rescheduled in the near future. You may wish to replay a previous encore.

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) — First Friday of April

Fri, Apr 4 (33) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

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

AKATHISTOS SATURDAY — First Saturday of April

Sat, Apr 5 (34) *** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Dorothy Pelescak (1st ann of passing 4/6) Family

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy St. Mary of Egypt Sunday — Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka (29th ann of passing 4/6) Dgr: Susie

ST. MARY OF EGYPT SUNDAY

5th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Apr 6 (35) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased Simko, Buchko & McCusker Peggy & Chuck

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia 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

Apr 2 – Russell Sidun

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

HOME: Dolores Babin, Margaret Belunas, Dolores & William Boras, Monica Lemesh, 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. I've been forgiven in confession of certain sins but find myself dwelling on them. Should I confess them again? **A. Answer by Catholic Apologist:** If you feel compelled to confess these absolved sins anew because you experience renewed feelings of guilt, we encourage you not to. Through the ministry of his priest, God has indeed absolved you of these past sins. However, absolution doesn't necessarily mean you will automatically be freed from all of the pain and guilt associated with those sins. When that pain and guilt resurfaces again, simply pray to God that you renew your sorrow for these sins, thank him for his forgiveness, and ask his continued help in your moving forward in the right direction. And persist in thanking God for his absolution when bad memories resurface. Again, the reality of God's forgiveness of our sins is not necessarily accompanied by an automatic and permanent feeling of peace. But with the help of God, his priests and related sacramental graces, and the help of others, you will in time more deeply experience his peace (see John 14:27).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 30 — April 5, 2025

(MR): **In memory of the Prosser & Korim Families**

offered by Anonymous

(NS): **In memory of Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko**

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Fr. Firko

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2025

McKees Rocks Announcements

GCU REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTS MATCHING FUNDS CHECK —



Recently, our Holy Ghost appointed GCU Representative, Donna Herron pictured with her father, Peter Kacsur, presented a \$3,000.00 Matching Funds Check to our pastor in behalf of our Christmas Pirohi Project in 2024. The check arrived from GCU Headquarters a little later than expected. This is truly our best money project of the parish. We are grateful to all our Pirohi Workers who sacrifice their time and labor for the Church.

PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUES WITH TWO WEERKS REMAINING —

The Pirohi Project continues sales on the remaining Friday dates: **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!

VIGIL TOMB WATCH SIGNUP SHEET NOW READY
MEN NEEDED TO HOLD CANDLES DURING PASSION
GOSPELS — On Holy & Great Friday morning during the
Passion Matins w/reading of the Twelve Gospels

North Side Announcements

HIGH WATER CONSUMPTION LOCATED — Pittsburgh Water has located the water source causing the leakage. Originally, it was thought to be in the Church. However, the water meter numbers indicted that it was in the Rectory. Both the toilet and shower on the 2nd floor showing sign of wear and tear is where the leakage was coming from. Armstrong Comfort Solutions (formally Matt Mertz Plumbing) was called to rectify the problem. Thank you for the prayers. Replacements parts have been ordered and work will begin to fix the problem. Pittsburgh Water are in the process of installing two new updated meters.

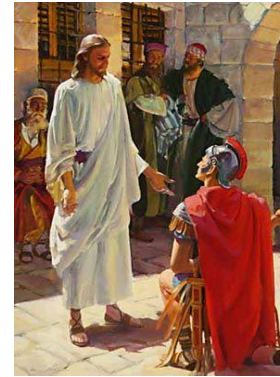
AREA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS FOOD SALES — Don't forget to visit St. Elias Church, Munhall with their Great Fast LENTEN FISH FRY & MORE this Friday, March 28 & April 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m (412) 461-9271. Also, vote for them on Face Book as the best Fish Fry in the Pittsburgh Area. Thus far, they are in 8th place. Let's push our Byzantine Catholic Church into 1st Place!

LENT IS A TIME TO ATTEND CHURCH MORE OFTEN!

Fourth Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

Encouragement Sunday: Necessity of Prayer & Fasting (Mk. 9: 17-31)

"I do believe! Help my lack of trust!" The healing of the possessed boy is one of the longest miracle stories in Mark's Gospel (only the expulsion of the demons in 5:1-20 is longer). It is also one of the more detailed stories, becoming a bit complicated in the repetition of some of those details (e.g., in v. 22 the father of the boy tells Jesus what he has *already* told him in v. 18; the crowd gathers twice within the same story. Despite its length and detail, there is a very clear and simple message that Mark wishes to convey: **Anything is possible to one who trusts, and trust is deepened by prayer and fasting!**



Although Jesus is the one who heals the boy, it is the father's profession of faith that Mark holds up for his readers to imitate. Even in the most desperate moments, when prayer and trust seem useless, Jesus invites his followers to go one step further and pray like the boy's father: "I do believe! Help my lack of trust!"

The Ladder of Divine Ascent

The **Sunday of St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)** is the fourth Sunday of The Great Fast It commemorates St. John Climacus (+ 649 a.m.), the author of the work The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Each of the Sundays of The Great Fast has a special theme. This Sunday's theme is St John's witness to the real spiritual struggle needed for entrance into God's Kingdom. It also is **encouragement** for the faithful to keep the goal of their Lenten efforts, for according to the Lord, *only "he who endures to the end will be saved"* (Mt 24:13). The Ladder describes how to raise one's soul and body to God through the acquisition of ascetic virtues. Climacus uses the analogy of Jacob's Ladder as the framework for his spiritual teaching. Each chapter is referred to as a "step" and deals with a separate spiritual subject. There are thirty Steps of the ladder, which correspond to the age of Jesus at his baptism and the beginning of his earthly ministry. Within the general framework of a 'ladder', Climacus' book falls into three sections. The first seven Steps concern general virtues necessary for the ascetic life, while the next nineteen (Steps 8-26) give instruction on overcoming vices and building their corresponding virtues. The final four Steps concern the higher virtues toward which the ascetic life aims. The final rung of the ladder—beyond prayer, stillness, and even dispassion is love. **Do you know where this icon is in our (MR) Church?**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 2 V 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 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. in Church
Basement

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 in Church Basement.

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

NEED FOR PUSSY WILLOWS ON PALM SUNDAY — We are going to need Pussy Willows
for our Palm (Flowery) Celebration on the **weekend of April 11-12.**
Hopefully they will be ready to be harvested. We could always use
additional branches. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church.



General Announcements

SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

THE GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE W/GREAT METANIES

The Matinal (Morning) Prayer of the Church containing the Canon of this beloved Saint of the
Byzantine Church is celebrated on the **5th Thursday of The Great Fast.** It is a poetic
lamentation of a Christian soul who discovers how
much God loves him. Several Great Metanies are
made while saying **“Have mercy on me, O God,
have mercy on me!”** The beautiful liturgical
service assists us in expressing our love to God
and sorrow for our sins. The soul is purified in this
penitential service. Come and join us as we pray
together on Thursday, April 3 @ 8:00 a.m.



AKATHISTOS SATURDAY

This liturgical term taken from the Greek Language A = No; KATHISTOS = Sitting. It is a
beautiful poetical service **STANDING** and is celebrated in honor of the Most Holy Theotokos
on the **5th Saturday of The Great Fast.** It assists us in beseeching her aid in defending us
against the dark spiritual forces of evil, especially during this time of The Great Fast, and
exhorts our fidelity to continued prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Let us seek the Holy Virgin
Mary's assistance following the Morning Divine Liturgy.

JOIN THE DEANERY FOR LAST OF TWO 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:; **(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



join them in giving alms.

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