

Parish Offerings – Sunday after the Enlightenment — January 11, 2026

“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

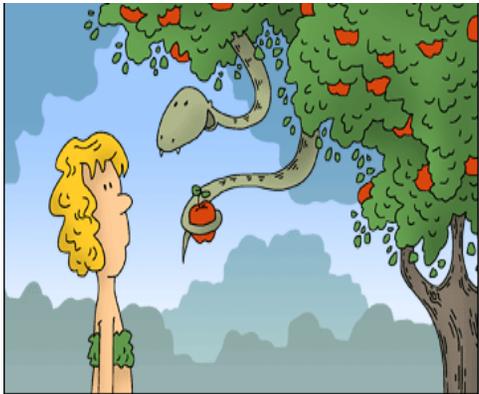
Regular Offering (\$2,265) YP (\$8.10)	\$2,273.10
Holy Days (\$501) YP (\$2) B.C.W. (\$244)	747.00
Initial (\$117) YP (\$4) Easter Décor (\$5) Christmas 2025 (\$120)	246.00
Votive Candles	161.50
	<u>\$3,427.60</u>

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$654) YP (\$2)	\$656.00
Holy Day (\$5) Initial (\$10) B.C.W. (\$48)	63.00
Votive Candles	69.00
	<u>\$788.00</u>

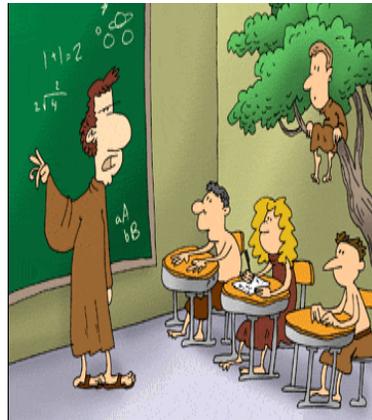
Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (18); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (73); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (31)



(See Genesis 3) 12-30-2013

REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?



(See Luke 19:1-10) 11-28-2011

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

Right at Home
HANDYMAN

North Side Parishioner

Alan
Valeriano
(412) 638-3417 PA
172370

GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society

Info call Randy (412) 973-1085
 GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

The 1st Pregreatfast Sunday — January 18, 2026
Annual 8 Days of Prayer for Christian Unity



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 Deacon Michael E. Meaders (NS)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Website: www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY

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.
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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 Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.

Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Pastor (412) 771-3324.

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 will **if you would like to request a Divine Liturgy (\$20) or Sanctuary Lamp \$10** Please contact the Church Office. Also, Blessed Decorative Sacramental/Easter Basket Candles (\$15).

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).

January 18, 2026

Volume XVI, Number 3



Seasonal Christian Greeting:
Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

Sunday of Zacchaeus

1st Pregreatfast Sunday

Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity

SUN, Jan 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Peter A. Smoley Dgtr: Mary Ann.
 (53rd ann of passing 1/17)

Federal Holiday — Martin Luther King, Jr. — Banks Closed & No Postal Service

Mon., Jan 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen Katrenich (1st ann of passing) Anonymous

Venerable Father Euthymius the Great

Tue., Jan 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) Thanks for Blessings Received + Eleanor Gramata & Son: George

Wed, Jan 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) **Special Intention for Josh** Kendrach Family

Thrs, Jan 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Msgr. Russell A. Duker, S.E.O.D. (2nd ann of passing)

EQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) in reparation of our forgiven sins confessed

Fri, Jan 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm. Mom: Beckey & Fam
 *** 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak, Jr. Wife: Jane

***Due to a previous commitment Sat. AM, the DL will be offered Friday evening**

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee — 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Robert Bordas Sister: Karen & Frank Grzywinski

Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

2nd Pregreatfast Sunday

Continuing the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity

SUN, Jan 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann + John Marks (2nd ann 1/22) H. Jonathan Osso
 11:00 a.m. (NS) . *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

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 be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Jan 18 – Michael Ferrell; **Jan 19** – Barbara Lutz; **Jan 21** – Nicholas Nazak, I, KIRK LATTA; **Jan 23** – Dean Poloka, Lydia Sell; **Jan 24** – Lainy Usouski .

Pray for the Ill & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Beliuas, Dolores & William Boras, Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL & CINDY MEADERS, John W. Oslick, Kurt Perschy, 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): Rosemarie Nazak, Mildred Terrek.

CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, 15108): Nancy Wauthier
TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Poznak
VANADIUM WOODS VILLAGE (50 Vanadium Rd, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Bea Stempkowski.
CONCORDIA OF BRIDGEVILLE (3560 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Flo Charochak.
HIGHLAND HILLS POST ACUTE (1105 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Bernice Herrick.
HERITAGE VALLEY SEWICKLEY (720 Blackburn Road, Sewickley, PA 15143): Burt Cifrutlak.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why is it so important to go to Church? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Why is it important for a lover to be with his beloved? If we love God, we will want to spend time with Him in the way He wants us to. God wants us to give ourselves to Him in worship (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-19; CCC 2096). And He wants us to do it through His Son's own self-surrender and sacrifice, the Eucharist (Lk. 22:17-19; CCC1389). All that requires our going to Church as God commands (Heb. 10:25). Another reason for going to Church: We receive special graces by worshipping God and by receiving the Eucharist (Jn. 6:56). Going to Church can change us and convert our hearts. It can teach us we are not the center of the universe — God is — and He deserves our praise and thanksgiving (Rev. 5:12; Psalm 145:1-3; CCC 300). One more point: If we are not worshipping God, we are worshipping something else — ourselves, television, a movie star or a sports team. Not going to Church does not mean we won't worship anything, only that we will worship the wrong thing (CC 2113).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 18 — January 24, 2026

(MR): **In memory of Agnes Bialek**

offered by Dgtr: Eileen & Kevin Finnegan

(NS): **In memory of Margaret & George Kurtanich**

(MR) Some available for 2026

offered by Children

(NS) Few available for 2026

General Announcements

MEETING NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS PIROHI PROJECT — We are working to organize plans for this year's Lenten Pirohi Project. All Volunteers for the Project are asked to set aside next **Sunday, January 25, 2026** following the Divine Liturgy in the Church basement.

Deanery Penitential Vespers for the Great Fast 2026

The Great Fast begins this year on **Pure Monday, February 16th**. The Protopresbytery of the City of Pittsburgh of our Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy will



hold its annual Penitential Vespers from February 22nd – March 22nd. It's an opportunity to come together to participate in the sacrament of **Reconciliation at 3:30 pm** and to pray the **Vespers at 4:00 pm**. Each is followed by a social hour focused on a meager meal of fast-friendly meatless soups and bread. This is a

wonderful opportunity for prayer, penance, self-denial, fellowship, and to gather with fellow travelers in the Great Fast, spiritually preparing us on our way to receive the Lord in the Feast of Feasts, **Great and Holy Pascha on April 5th**. Please consult the schedule below if you or someone you know would like to attend:

- 1st Sunday, Feb. 22: St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church,
506 Saline St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207
Homilist: Fr. Michael Kunitz
- 2nd Sunday, March 1: Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church
4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Homilist: Fr. Tyler Wisniewski
- 3rd Sunday, March 8: Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church
225 Olivia St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Homilist: Fr. Vitalii Stashkevych
- 4th Sunday, March 15: Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church
431 George St., Braddock, PA 15104
Homilist: Fr. Frank Firko
- 5th Sunday, March 22 : St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church
2336 Brownsville Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15210
Homilist: Fr. Valerian Michlik

GRATITUDE TO ALL FROM BOTH PARISHES — A special thank you is extended to all

who stayed to dismantle the Christmas decorations last week at both parishes. Your sacrificial and unselfish gesture made it possible to complete the task within a reasonable time. Teamwork is awesome! God bless you for your assistance! May God grant you many happy and blessed years full of health and happiness! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

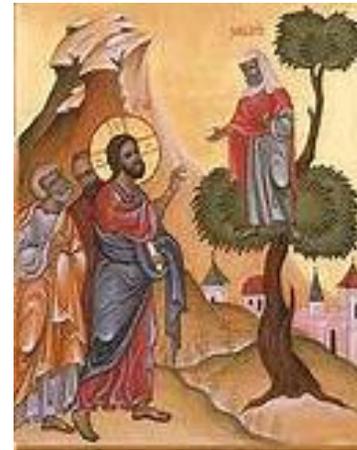


Today's Gospel Meditation

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

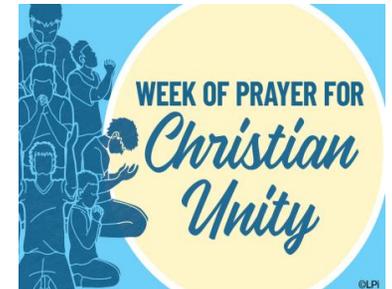


Season which is still one month away. The theme of "Repentance" is set before us and continues for two forthcoming Sundays. Today lesson is the first Pregreatfast **Sunday of Zacchaeus**. His name means PURE or JUSTIFIED. HE was the wealthy man of Jerusalem who gathered revenue for the Roman government, 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.

EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ENDS NEXT WEEK — This

Next Sunday concludes the *Annual Eight Days of Prayer* for the intention of Christian Unity. Each year from January 18-25, Christians unite to pray in the same sentiments that Jesus prayed to the Father: "That all may be one ... so that the world may believe." (John 17:21). As Catholics we have the fullness of the faith that Jesus established, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Pray each day: "O Almighty and Merciful God, You willed that the different nations should



become one people through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. In this may Your name be glorified Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen." (partial Indulgence)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

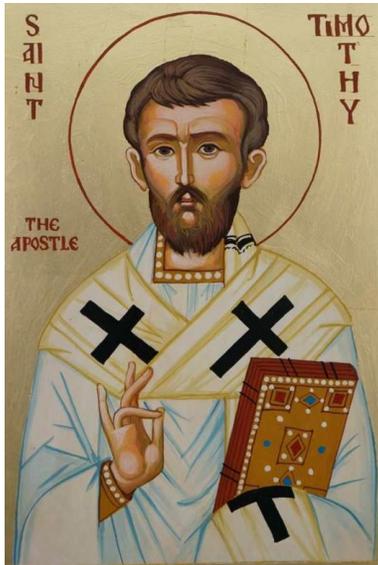
January 18-25 Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
 January 19 Martin Luther King Federal Holiday — No Banking or Postal Service this day.
 January 30 Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs (Simple Holy Day): (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 a.m.
 February 2 Feast of the Encounter of the Lord (Solemn Holy Day)
 Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 am.; (NS) 5:50 pm.
 February 6-7 First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 February 16 **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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint of the Week — January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy of the Seventy

The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor (present day Turkey). Saint Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the



holy Apostle Paul (June 29). When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, Saint Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future Saint Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5). The seed of faith, planted in Saint Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became Saint Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved Saint Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude. He wrote to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul

appointed Saint Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when Saint Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend, Saint Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9). Saint Timothy ended his life as a martyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. Saint Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ. The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. Saint Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.

General Announcements

PASTOR WILLING TO CALL GOD'S GRACE UPON YOUR HOME — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to



bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By having our home blessed annually, we extend God's grace to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by our sins and consequently separate or weaken God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year (by fulfilling our Paschal requirement) and even the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year. Our homes should be sanctified with Sanctified Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of great importance and

more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office (412) 771-3324

THE MANY BENEFITS OF SANCTIFIED AND HOLY WATER

Because sanctified and holy water is one of the Church's sacramentals, it remits

venial sin. Keep your soul beautifully pure in God's sight by making the Sign of the Cross carefully while saying: "Wash me with hyssop and I shall become clean, cleanse me and I will be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51). Draw Blessings down on Your Loved Ones. Holy water, sprinkled with faith and piety, can move the Sacred Heart to bless your loved ones and protect them from all harm of soul and body. When worry and fear take possession of your heart, hasten to your holy water font, and give your dear ones the benefit of the Church's prayers. HOLY WATER USES: Bless Yourself and Others (family & friends) Bless Your Pets



Bless Your House (especially during bad weather); Bless Your Electronics (computers, televisions, etc.); Bless Your Car, Motorcycle, and/or Boat, Bless Your Workspace; Bless the Sick and Dying, Sprinkle Some on the Graves when you visit a Cemetery & also sprinkle some for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Proper Disposal of Holy Water: **Remember to discard previous years Sanctified Water in a respectable manner such as watering your plants or place it in an area of the ground that is not walked on! It is not to be poured down the sink drain! Also, you may bring it to North Side Church to be drained in a holy sink called a Sacarium.**

TIME TO RENEW YOUR B.C.W. SUBSCRIPTION— A good source of Archieparchial News



is *The Byzantine Catholic World*. News and photographs concerning all parishes are reported. Our parishes cannot sustain the cost on a complimentary basis. Please submit \$14.00 in the special envelope in your contribution box. If you are subscribing for the first time, please make a notation on the

envelope: **NEW SUBSCRIBER**. This will help the Church office to expedite your request. If you would like to subscribe for someone not able to afford an annual subscription, please submit the total amount A.S.A.P.