

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of Triumph of True Worship — February 22, 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 (\$1,551) YP (\$25.15) .....	\$1,576.15
Holy Days (Pure Monday) .....	75.00
Votive Candles .....	168.00
	\$1,819.15

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$715) YP (\$1) .....	\$716.00
Holy Days .....	25.00
Utilities (\$35) Improvements (\$10) Initial (\$8) B.C.W. (\$14) .....	67.00
Votive Candles .....	72.00

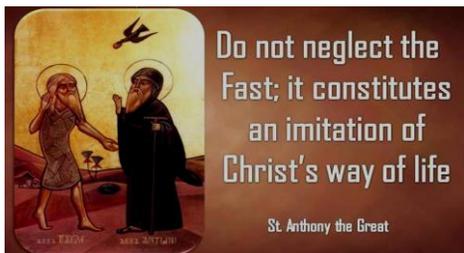
**Church Attendance Last Week** \$880.00

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (23);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (67); (NS) 11:00 am (24)

2<sup>nd</sup> Great Fast Wed. — (MR) 7:00 pm (11); 3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Fast Fri. — (NS) 6:00 pm (16)

1<sup>st</sup> of 5 Deanery Vespers – (Greenfield) 4:00 pm (67)



**Szal**  
**Valerian F. Szal**  
 238 Helen St.,  
 Phone: (412) 331-9713  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
 Supervisor, CFSP  
*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*

**GCU**  
 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

**Handyman Services**  
 North Side Parishioner  
**Alan Valeriano**  
**(412) 638-3417**  
**PA #172370**

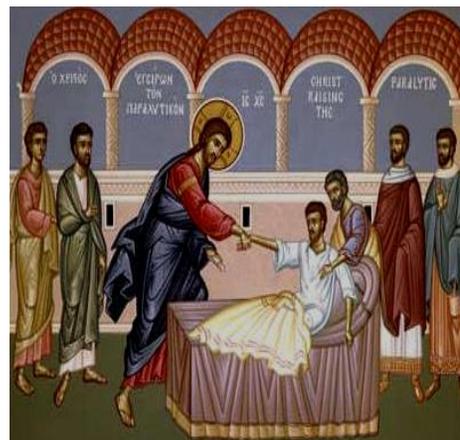


**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**  
**The Sunday of the Palsied Man — March 1, 2026**



**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 Meaders (NS)**

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870  
 MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Web-site: [www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**  
**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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.  
**d, Personal Care & Hospitalized:** Phone Church Office ASAP.  
**Sponsor of Christian Initiation:** Godparents must be practicing Catholics.  
**Religious Education Classes:** (MR) Coordinator: Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.  
**Carpatho-Rusyn Radio:** Internet Sunday afternoon: [Rusyn.fm](http://Rusyn.fm) at 3:30 pm. Archive: [c-rsmedia.org](http://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!

# 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 1 2026

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIV, Number 9



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!  
Slava Isusu Christ! — Slava na Viki!



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy**

SUN., Mar 1 (14) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna + Mike Kacmarak Family

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Spirit Church, Oakland, preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar 2 (15) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew + Joseph + John Hrivnak Nephew: Fr. Firko (anniversaries of passing)

Tue, Mar 3 (16) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Albert Barnash (birthday 2/29) Son: Al & Christine

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

Wed, Mar 4 (17) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Thrs, Mar 5 (18) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann M. (Tay) Lecci (birthday 2/28) Jeno Lecci, Sr.

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) — 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of March**

Fri, Mar 6 (19) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Penitential Greatfast Hours

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday — 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of March**

Sat, Mar 7 (20) \*\*\* 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/ reading of Hramoty

**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Precious Cross — Third Sunday of The Great Fast**

\*\*\* 3:50 p.m. (MR) + Helen Best (birthday 2/26) Nancy & Michael Ferrell

### CROSS VENERATION SUNDAY

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy**

SUN., Mar 8 (21) \*\*\* 8:50 a.m. (MR) + Mildred "Mimi" Terrek (40<sup>th</sup> day of passing) Dgtrs M&C

\*\*\* 10:50 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop (birthday 3/7) Valeriano & Kallop Families

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost Church McKees Rocks 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 1 – JAMES LASKO, Kimberly Ruud; Mar 3 – Cecelia Colbert; Mar 4 – Leyte Tomchak; Mar 7 – Andrew Hrishenko, Madi Usouski.

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

**HOME:** Ted Babin, Margaret Beliuas, Dolores & William Boras, Susan Fejka, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Monica Lemesh, 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.

**CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER** (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, 15108): Nancy Wauthier  
**CONCORDIA OF BRIDGEVILLE** (3560 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Flo Charochak.  
**HIGHLAND HILLS POST ACUTE** (1105 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Bernice Herrick.

#### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is coffee permitted before Mass (The Divine Liturgy)? A. Answer by Catholic Apologist, Michelle Arnold: The rule is that there is a one hour fast from all food and liquids before Communion (not before Mass/The Divine Liturgy). The only exceptions to this rule are water and medicine. Those who have medical conditions that make such a fast dangerous are exempt from the fast. If you can finish your coffee at least one hour before Communion, then it is fine to drink it on the way to church. Otherwise, coffee does break the Communion fast.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**March 1 — March 7, 2026**

(MR): In memory of Cantor + John Fejka (birthday 2/28)

offered by Dgtr: Susir

(NS): In memory of Sally & Andy Staskus

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

offered by Niece: Joan Senchyshyn

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2026

# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks & North Side

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Mildred “Mimi” Terrek, 100**, a resident of the Willows, McKees Rocks who passed away at the personal care facility on Sunday, January 18, 2026. She reached the centenary milestone last November with a grand birthday party surrounded by a host of family and friends. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home handled the arrangements. She was the mother of Christine Treemarcki and Monica Shoemaker. She was the grandmother and aunt to several of her dear family members. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Thursday, January 22, at 10:00 a.m. Interment followed at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township.



Also, **Elizabeth Poznak, 101**, of Imperial, PA who passed away on Monday, January 19, 2026. She was a resident of the Tapestry Senior Care Facility, Moon Township. She is survived by her children: Barbara (Richard) Lutz, Loretta (Russell) Keller, Christopher (Rosemary) and Macrina Holder. Her Funeral Divine Liturgy preceded the snowstorm on Saturday, January 25. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township. The funeral arrangements were handled by the Herrick Compassionate Funeral Service, Imperial. She also leaves behind several grandchildren. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servants Mildred and Elizabeth and remember them forever! *Vičnaja Jim Pamjat’.*

**PIROHI PROJECT RESUMES THIS WEEK** — Our Pirohi Project continues orders/ sales this week. The Friday Sales are **Mar. 6, 13, 20, & 27 (no sales on 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 can place advertising posters, please take a few by the Church entrances. It will be greatly appreciated!**



**BYZAN-TEEN BAKE SALE** — Our Byzan-TEEN Youth Group will be having a Bake Sale today following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Come and support their upcoming Byzantine Youth Rally in July.

**BRING PROFIT TO YOUR SOUL THROUGH REPENTANCE** — The Greatfast liturgical Hours, and especially the **Presanctified Divine Liturgy and receiving Holy Communion help to sanctify us**. If you have never attended these services especially 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! We follow the example of the sinful Publican who came to the Temple with humility.

**PUSSY WILLOWS NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY** — We are going to need Pussy Willows for our Palm (Flowery) Celebration on the **weekend of March 28-29**. Hopefully they will be ready to be harvested. Our willow trees on parish property have rotted at the trunk, and had to be deposed. We could always use additional branches. It may be that pussy willows will not be given out this year. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church Office.

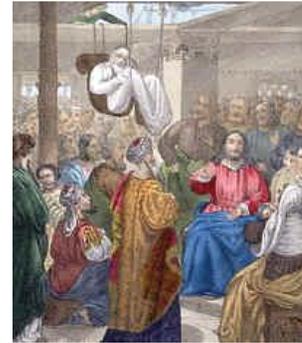
# THE MEANING OF OFFERING PENANCE

## Second Sunday of THE GREAT FAST

The Meaning of Offering Individual & Collective Penance

### Gospel of Palsied Man — Forgiveness of sins leads to a new life (Mark 2: 1-12)

Sinning is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually. However, **the sinful character of mankind is something which we all share in common and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each have to do our own fair share of the effort.** And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us. The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his palsied state.



They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways bad enough, we can find ways to do so. Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the palsied man. Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

## 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*).

**Having Suffered the Passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us! (Great Metany)**

**Preterp'ivij za nas Strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozij, pomiluj nas! (Great Metany)**

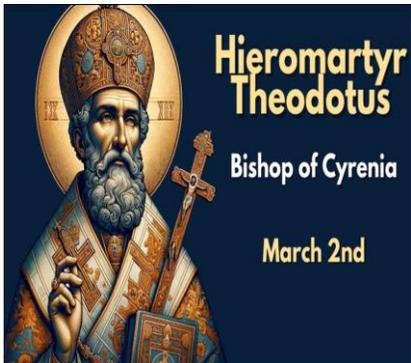
# Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 4 ..... LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 pm;  
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.  
 ..... Pirohi Sales Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn.  
 March 6 ..... LENTEN FRIDAY: (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am;  
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty.  
 ..... Lenten Pirohi Sales.  
 March 7 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.  
 March 8 ..... Daylight Savings Time begins.  
 ..... Deanery Penitential Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 4:00 p.m.  
 March 11 ... LENTEN WEDNESDAY: (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 pm;  
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.  
 ..... Pirohi Sales Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn.  
 March 13 ..... LENTEN FRIDAY: (MR) 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am;  
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. followed by the Hramoty.  
 ..... Lenten Pirohi Sales.  
 March 14 ..... 4<sup>th</sup> Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.  
 March 25 ..... Feast of the Anunciation.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### The Bishop-Martyr Theodotus of Cyrenia March 2

The Bishop-Martyr Theodotus, a native of Galatia in Asia Minor, was Bishop of Cyrenia in Cyprus. During a time of persecution against Christians under the impious emperor



Licinius (311-324), St Theodotus openly preached Christ, calling on the pagans to abandon idolatry and turn to the true God. Sabinus, the governor of Cyprus, ordered that Bishop Theodotus be arrested and brought to trial. When he heard about this order, the saint did not wait for the soldiers to be sent after him, but immediately went to the governor saying, *“I, whom you seek, am here. I have shown myself in order to preach Christ my God.”* The governor ordered that the saint be beaten without mercy, suspended from a tree, raked

with sharp implements, and then be taken to prison. Five days later St Theodotus was brought to the governor, who presumed that after his tortures the bishop would prefer to renounce Christ, rather than endure new sufferings. However, St Theodotus did not cease to preach about Christ. At first they put the saint on an iron grate, under which they lit a fire, and then hammered nails into his feet and let him go. Many witnessed the sufferings of the martyr. Astonished at the saint’s endurance and his divinely inspired speech, they came to believe in Christ. Learning of this, Sabinus gave orders to stop the torture and throw the saint into prison. During the reign of St Constantine the Great (May 21), the freedom to confess their faith was given to all Christians, and among those set free from prison was St Theodotus. The saint returned to Cyrenia and after two years serving as bishop, he peacefully fell asleep in the Lord in about the year 326.

# General Announcements

**LENT HALF OVER NEXT WEEKEND**— The Season of the Holy and Great 40 days Fast will be half over next Sunday of Cross-Veneration. The Holy Cross will be placed in our midst to encourage and strengthen us to carry out the second half of our Lenten journey. The forty days are calculated from Pure Monday (February 16) to Palm Friday (March 27). According to the Byzantine Catholic Church, Holy Week is not part of the Lenten Season, but has its own particular importance. The penitential character of the 40 days is meant to “bring profit to our souls.” THIS IS CARRIED THROUGH IN THE SPIRIT OF “REPENTANCE.” In other words, to prepare our soul by purifying it by prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the upcoming salutary days commencing on Lazarus Saturday and extending through Holy Saturday. We do not cease with our Lenten commitment but continue to carry its light burden until our Lord’s Radiant Resurrection from the dead! **Don’t forget, all Divine Liturgies begin 10 minutes earlier next weekend for the Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross.**



**PARISH TO HOST PENITENTIAL VESPERS** — On **Sunday, March 8, 2026**, our Parish will be hosting one of five Deanery Great Fast Vespers. The event will begin at 4:00 p.m. preceded by the Holy Mystery of Penance (Confessions) at 3:30 p.m. Following the Liturgical Prayer, a Fellowship that will consist of offering and serving several meatless soups and bread. The afternoon’s Penitential Vespers offers us a salutary opportunity to exercise penance which brings us a renewal of our souls. Please consider joining us in representing the Greater Pittsburgh Protokesbytery!



**LAST WEEK TO SUBMIT SUBSCRIPTION TO ARCHIEPARCHIAL NEWSPAPER** — We are in the process of sending all submitted new and renewal payments to *The Byzantine Catholic World*. There are several who have not turned in their 2026 subscription envelope. In order to keep your B.C.W. from being terminated or interrupted, please submit payment **by next Sunday, March 8**. This newspaper serves as an excellent source of reporting all news in the Archeparchy and throughout the metropolitan province.



**CONTINUING TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ALL-SOULS COMMEMORATION** — During the Great Fast Season, the Church is 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). This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that the submitted names of your beloved will be prayed and honored. It is an act of continual love and Spiritual Work of Mercy for our beloved who have passed into eternity by rendering the Alms of Prayer. If you have not 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 two special All-Souls Saturdays. You are encouraged to attend these special days as well. Check the liturgical page as to times and places.

