

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Zacchaeus — January 14, 2024

“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

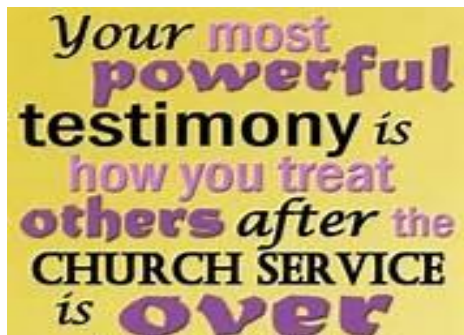
Regular Offering (\$1,392) YP (\$7)	\$1,399.00
Holy Days	130.00
Initial (\$103) B.C.W. (\$183)	286.00
Votive Candles	117.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,932.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$597) YP (\$1)	\$598.00
Holy Days (\$45) Improvement (\$55) Initial (\$30) B.C.W. (\$57)	187.00
Special Donation (In mem. of Agnes & Anthony Knoll by Son: William (\$100) ..	100.00
Votive Candles	30.00


Church Attendance Last Week \$915.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (26) — *Freezing temperatures*
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (41); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (17)




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



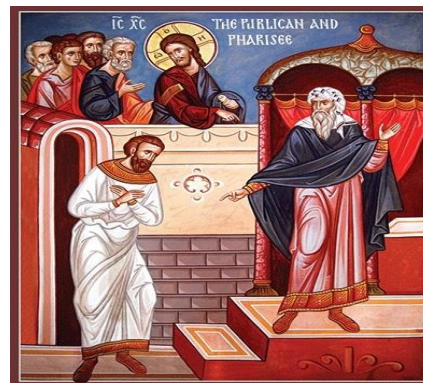
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday — January 21, 2024



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko

Pastor, Administrator & Protosyber

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 – 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.

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 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!

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 21, 2024

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIV, Number 3



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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
Sunday of Publican & Pharisee			
2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday			
SUN, Jan 21	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joe Babin	Joe, Mary Ann & Jim
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Robert J. Galida <i>(46th ann of passing)</i>	Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen
Mon, Jan 22	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Olszewski Family	Br. Regis Howitz, O.F.M.
Tue, Jan 23	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna Hrebenak	Margaret & + James Lautenschlager
Wed, Jan 24	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Kulka	M/M Michael Tomchak & Son
<i>Our Father among the Saints, Gregory the Theologian</i>			
<i>Final Day of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity</i>			
Thrs, Jan 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Sharon Ann Maletz	Parents: Martha & Bob Maletz

NO SIMPLE ABSTINENCE OR EQUIVALENT PENANCE DURING PUBLICAN & PHARISEE WEEK. This is to remind us that we are NOT to take pride in the fact that this is all we do to seek God's favor. Traditionally, this is one of five and/or sometimes 6 times throughout the year that this occurs.

Fri, Jan 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Alex Bilak, Jr.	Helen & + Lester Best
Sat, Jan 27	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Olga Manfredo <i>(2nd ann. of passing 1/16)</i>	Anonymous

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Prodigal Son – 3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday
4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

3rd Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN, Jan 28	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joseph Hrebenak	Dgtr: Maria, Subdeacon Luke & Anita <i>(38th ann. of passing 1/16)</i>
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Peter A. Smoley	Dgtr: Mary Ann <i>(51st ann of passing 1/17)</i>

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

Jan 21 – KIRK LATTA, Nicholas Nazak I; Jan 23 – Dean Poloka, Lydia Sell; Jan 24 – Alaina Usouski

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Diane Bell, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Elizabeth Poznak, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.
VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrulak. Mildred Terrek.

LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.

CONCORDIA VILLA OF ST. JOSEPH (1030 State St., Baden, PA 15005): John Marks

ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Avenue, PA 15212): Albert Kovacs, Sr. Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

UPMC SHADYSIDE (5230 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232): JOHN NEWPORT.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. If you get married in Jamaica, can you come back to the States and have your marriage blessed by the Catholic Church? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Getting married in Jamaica is not an impediment to a valid marriage, and those who validly marry there are not required to travel to the United States to have their marriage blessed, or convalidated. Catholics are required to be married in the Church; if one marries outside the Church, whether in or out of the United States, then one's marriage will not be valid unless it is later convalidated. To deliberately marry outside of the Church and live as husband and wife is not a minor irregularity that one can always plan to straighten out later; it is a grave betrayal of our obligation as Catholics to live by the law of the Church and a sin against God, in whose eyes the marriage is nonexistent.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 21 – January 27, 2024

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

(wedding ann. 1/9) — offered by Children

(NS): **In memory of Diane V. Vida** *(1st ann of passing 1/19)*

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Anonymous

(NS) AVAILABLE 2024

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

MEETING TODAY 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 gather today in the **Church** following the Divine Liturgy. Also here is the tally of our pre-Christmas sales: **November/December Sales: \$21,669.42; Expenses: -\$4,265.32; Rockefeller Luncheon: -\$393.00; Minus Cathedraicum: -\$888.93. Total Proceeds: \$16,119.17 (Deposited into the Parish Savings & Share Account).** Expenses

included in above figure: Containers (-\$770.46); A special note of gratitude to all our Pirohi Workers, and to Donna & Harry Herron, who are the GCU Representatives who will be applying for the \$3,000.00 matching funds not reflected in the above statement. Also, not reflected is the interest from the Parish Savings and Share Account. May God always remember all that you do for our Holy Ghost Church!

PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of meeting change now slated for **Saturday, February 3, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m. in the Church office.** Major agenda is the 2023 Church Financial Report. Please place this date on your agenda.



FIRST ALL SOULS FORTHCOMING — The first of five All Souls commemoration will take place on **Friday, Feb. 2 (NS) following the Holy Day Divine Liturgy and Saturday, Feb. 3 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.** You are encouraged to remember your loved ones by submitting their first names on the envelope in your contribution box. *If you have participated last year, you need only to write new names.* The Church has the previous names. It is so

important that we remember and commemorate our loved ones who have gone into eternity!

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE — **January 21:** Dean Polka, "From Rus' to the Rocks" on the Carpatho-Rusyn ancestors of our Church; **January 28:** Subdeacon Luke, "Sealed with the Spirit" on Holy Chrismation. These courses will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the McKees Rocks Basement.



NORTH SIDE

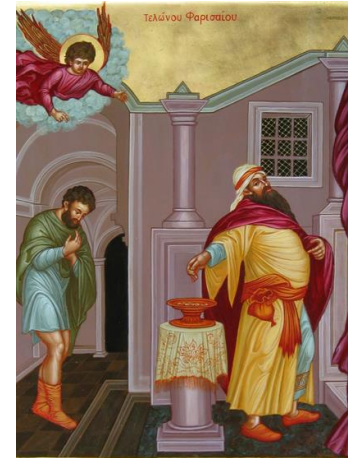
PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of meetings on **(NS) Sunday, February 4, 2024 following the Sunday Divine Liturgy in the Church.** Major agenda is the 2023 Church Financial Report. Please place this date on your agenda.

Today's Gospel Meditation

The 2nd of Five Sundays Prior to The Great Fast

HUMILITY in the Presence of God & Neighbor

Jesus was constantly combating the self-righteousness that he found such a sinister enemy of spiritual progress. This parable is addressed directly to the self-



righteous. The Pharisee and the tax collector are stereotypes of the good and the sinful person. The **Pharisee** prays with straightforward gratitude for his healthy spiritual state. There is no sign that he is trying to deceive. Pharisees did fast severely twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, for the good of the whole nation. And there is no reason to doubt that he tithed. *The tragedy is that he does not understand the flawed nature of this prayer.* He is deceiving himself. He does not look upon himself as God's servant but as one who deserves good of God for a job well done. Besides this pride, he is guilty of contempt for the tax collector. The **Publican** is conscious of his sinfulness. He knows that he does not deserve consideration because of anything he has done. The prayer he utters is one of the sources of the ancient Jesus Prayer: "*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*" It is this helplessness and dependence that opens one to God's grace; it is the spirit of the child. Earlier Jesus commended one who would say, after doing good work that was a duty, "We are unprofitable servants" (17:10). The debate over faith and works is already engaged here (see Rom 3:27-4:5). Jesus Himself draws the shocking conclusion from the parable: the observant Pharisee goes home unjustified; the sinful tax collector is justified. The reversal maxim concludes the story.

SIMPLE ABSTINENCE IS MITIGATED THIS WEEK

The Church looks upon every Friday as a special day of remembrance of Our Lord's salvific death upon the Precious Cross. Fasting/Abstinence are a reminder that we must be



humbly grateful to Jesus for dying for our sins. However, there are certain Fridays throughout the liturgical life that we put aside this penitential character for other didactical expressions. For example, this **Friday following the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee, simple abstinence is mitigated so that we focus on the fact that abstinence is not an end.** Christ is our end and He is the only One Who can save us. We cannot save ourselves even if we were to fast

every day! For we who are used to abstaining from meat or doing an equivalent penance each Friday, this is difficult, but necessary to keep us humble and to focus on the value of what fasting and abstinence truly accomplish. It then aids in strengthening us at the appropriate times when we are called to its practice.

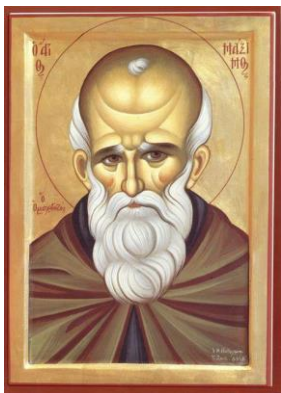
Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 14 Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
 Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
 January 18-25 Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
 February 2 .Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 a.m.; (NS) 5:50 pm.
 followed by the reading of the Hramoty
 February 3 The 1st Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) at 9:00 a.m.
 February 10 (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting Saturday @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 11 (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the DL.
 February 12 **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.
 February 14**PURE WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30
 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 February 16**PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30
 p.m.; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Our Venerable Father Maximus the Confessor January 21

Saint Maximus the Confessor was born in Constantinople around 580 and raised in a pious Christian family. He received an excellent education, studying philosophy, grammar, and rhetoric.



He was well-read in the authors of antiquity and he also mastered philosophy and theology. When St Maximus entered government service, he became first secretary and chief counselor to the emperor Heraclius (611-641), who was impressed by his knowledge and virtuous life. St Maximus soon realized that the emperor and many others had been corrupted by the Monothelite heresy which falsely taught that in the Lord Jesus Christ there was only one nature (the divine). Influenced by this erroneous opinion, the Monothelite heretics said that in Christ there was only one divine will and only one divine energy. It was spreading rapidly through the East. He resigned from his duties at court, and went to the Chrysopolis monastery (on the opposite shore of the Bosphorus), where he received monastic tonsure. Because of his humility and wisdom, he soon won the love of the brethren and

was chosen Hegumen of the monastery after a few years. Even in this position, he remained a simple monk. In 638, the emperor Heraclius and Patriarch Sergius tried to minimize the importance of differences in belief. In defending True Worship, St Maximus spoke to people in various occupations and positions, and these conversations were successful. Not only the clergy and the bishops, but also the people and the secular officials felt some sort of invisible attraction to him, as we read in his Life. When St Maximus saw what turmoil this heresy caused in Constantinople and in the East, he decided to leave his monastery and seek refuge in the West, where Monothelism had been completely rejected. On the way, he visited the bishops of Africa, strengthening them in True Worship, and not to be deceived by the cunning arguments of the heretics. The Fourth Ecumenical Council had condemned the Monophysite heresy. The saint spent six years in Alexandria and the surrounding area. The Lord revealed to St Maximus the time of his death (August 13, 662). Three candles appeared over the grave of St Maximus and burned miraculously. This was a sign that St Maximus was a beacon of True Worship during his lifetime, and continues to shine forth as an example of virtue for all. Many healings occurred at his tomb.

General Announcements

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. Team-Work 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!



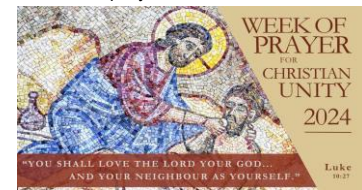
ADDITIONAL SANCTUARY LAMPS AVAILABLE IN 2024 FOR BOTH PARISHES — Sanctuary Lamps are currently available for your intentions at both parishes. They are \$10.00 each and are burned before the Tabernacle of Our Lord Jesus' Real Presence throughout the week. Submit your request and stipend in a regular envelope and who it is that is offering.



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD SUBSCRIPTION NOW DUE — Our *Archieparchial B.C.W. Newspaper* is an excellent source for providing news of our Church. Please renew your annual subscription of \$14.00 in the church envelope. **If you are a new subscriber, please indicate by writing NEW on the envelope.** Also, several of our parishioners who are on Medicaid living in special needs facilities and/or cannot afford a subscription. If you would like to subsidize a year's subscription for them, please consider donating the annual cost of \$14.00. To receive this gift subscription, they remain connected to their Church that cares for them throughout the year! Remaining funds will be used as postage to subsidize weekly Church bulletin postage for them! It would be greatly appreciated!



EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ENDS THIS THURSDAY—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). **This year's theme is: "You shall love the Lord your God ... And your neighbor as yourself"** (Lk. 10:27). As Catholics who 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."**



RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION PROPERLY — When receiving Our Eucharistic Lord Jesus, please tilt your head back slightly, do not close your eyes, and OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE (as if you were at the dentist's office without extending the tongue). Please DO NOT LIP & try to forcibly take the Sacred Particle or CHOMP DOWN on the spoon. If some of the consecrated wine runs down the outside of your mouth **DO NOT WIPE IT AWAY WITH YOUR HAND, BUT USE THE CLOTH LENTION NEXT TO THE CHALICE. THIS IS NO LONGER WINE, BUT THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR SAVIOR.**

