

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4815 5TH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH PA 15213 (412) 687-1220

Administrator: Reverend Michael D Kunitz

Holy Spirit Rectory

4815 5th Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15213

(412) 687-1220

FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com

Website – holyspiritbyzath.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak and Family

Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero

Angelino and Emanuel Revilak

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, March 27, 2022 – 11:00am ~ Divine Liturgy for deceased George Bacasa
by Mrs. Theresa Carr

Sunday, March 27, 2022 - 3:30pm ~ Confessions followed by Vespers at 4pm, light dinner to follow,
St. John Chrysostom in Greenfield

Monday, March 28, 2022 – 8:30am ~ First and Third Hour

4:30-5:30pm ~ Confessions, with Vespers at 5:30pm

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 11:30am ~ Tierce-Sext

4:30-5:30pm ~ Confessions, with Presanctified Liturgy at 5:30pm

Saturday, April 2, 2022, 8:30am ~ Akathist, with Divine Liturgy at 9am

For deceased George Carr by Ms. Mary Dzurichko

Sunday, April 3, 2022, 11:00am ~ Divine Liturgy for deceased Hedwig Bacasa by Mr. & Mrs. Bacasa

THE ANDREAN THURSDAY: THE GREAT CANON OF SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE....

The fifth Thursday of the Holy Forty Days Fast is called The Thursday of the Great Canon, and we make a special commemoration of the holy Venerable Martyr Andrew, the Archbishop of Crete. A very characteristic feature of the great fast season is the celebration of Saint Andrew of Crete's Great Canon at the Matins on Encouragement Thursday, which this year falls on March 18. The canon, which is a liturgical poem written by Saint Andrew in the year 720 A.D., encourages all of us to do penance as we reflect upon our lives, meditate upon our deeds, scrutinize our actions, and examine our consciences during this sacred Great Fast period of repentance. Saint Andrew's Canon is a poetic lamentation of a Christian soul who discovers again and again how much God loves him and offers His divine mercy, and how necessary it is to demonstrate profound contrition and sincere metanoia in order to seek reconciliation with God. This service is customarily called "The Metanies"(Poklony) in that before each troparion of the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete, a metany or full prostration is made while chanting, "Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!"

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Monday: 9am, Holy Spirit, Bridegroom Matins

5:30-7:30pm, Holy Spirit, Confessions

Holy Tuesday: Fr. Michael's day off (due to Holy Thursday)

Holy Wednesday: 9am, Pius X, Bridegroom Matins, then Confessions until 12pm – LAST CHANCE AT PIUS UNTIL PASCHA

12pm, Pius X, Presanctified Liturgy with Anointing

4pm, Holy Spirit, Confessions – LAST CHANCE AT HOLY SPIRIT UNTIL PASCHA

6pm, Holy Spirit, Presanctified Liturgy with Anointing

Holy Thursday: 12pm, Pius X, Vespers Divine Liturgy

6pm, Holy Spirit, Vespers Divine Liturgy

Good Friday: 11am, Pius X, Strasti Matins, followed by Burial Vespers at 12pm

4:30pm, Holy Spirit, Office of Readings, followed by Burial Vespers at 6pm

Holy Saturday: 9am, Holy Spirit, Jerusalem Matins

12pm, Pius X, Vespers Divine Liturgy, followed by basket blessings

6pm, Holy Spirit, Vespers Divine Liturgy

The Sunday of Pascha: 8am, Pius X, Paschal Matins followed by Divine Liturgy at 9am

11am, Holy Spirit, Paschal Matins, followed by Divine Liturgy at 12pm, followed by basket blessings

Note: The law of the Church ordains that all the faithful go to Confession at least once during the Lenten season. Please be sure to take advantage of this blessed opportunity.

Hebrews 6: 13-20

Brethren: When God made his promise to Abraham, he swore by himself, having no one greater to swear by, and said, "I will indeed please you, and multiply you." And, so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained what God had promised. Men swear by someone greater than themselves; an oath gives firmness to a promise and puts an end to all argument. God, wishing to give the heirs of his promise even clearer evidence that his purpose would not change, guaranteed it by oath, so that, by two things that are unchangeable, in which he could not lie, we who have taken refuge in him might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope which is placed before us. Like a sure and firm anchor, that hope extends beyond the veil through which Jesus, our forerunner, has entered on our behalf, being made high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

~~~~~On this fourth Great Fast Sunday, the holy epistle lesson which is taken from the letter to the early community of Jewish Christians, provides us with Encouragement so that we would trust and hope in the various promises that God has revealed concerning our salvation. All of these promises are fulfilled in the person of Jesus, our High Priest. God has given His assurance that those who faithfully trust in Him for redemption definitely will receive His promise of eternal life. This should give us confidence as we continue with this last portion of the journey of the Holy Forty Days Fast. As our High Priest Who has been sacrificed upon the sacred cross, Jesus has gone ahead to plead with God for each of us (His followers) so that we also could be assured of a place in the "New Life" of His heavenly Kingdom.~~~~~

## **GOSPEL Mark 9: 17-31**

Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I have brought to you my son possessed by a mute spirit. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable to do so."

He said to them in reply, "O faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him to me." They brought the boy to him. And when he saw him, the spirit immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground, he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then he questioned his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "Since childhood. It has often thrown him into fire and into water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

Jesus said to him, "'If you can!' Everything is possible to one who has faith." Then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, rebuked the unclean spirit and said to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!" Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out. He became like a corpse, which caused many to say, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up.

When he entered the house, his disciples asked him in private, "Why could we not drive it out?" He said to them, "This kind can only come out through prayer." They left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise."

~~~~~We confidently hope and trust that salvation will be given by Jesus Christ to each of us who follow after Him. We can be certain of this! Today's holy gospel offers us such Encouragement so that we could manifest hope and belief like the man who was introduced in this scriptural account. The Holy Evangelist Mark presents us with the desperate father of an epileptic boy who besought Jesus, saying: "*If you can, let Your heart be moved with pity, and help us.*" Jesus replied that everything is possible for those who believe in Him as the Son of God. The father retorted, saying that he had faith, that he did believe. However, he added, "*Help me to believe more!*" This also must be our constant prayer, for although we do believe, we need divine help to increase our faith. As we continue with the journey of the Great Fast, we must pray and fast just as Jesus commands the apostles in this passage. Our reward for keeping to this task will be the right to participate in His eternal "New Life." We must not be distracted from attaining this goal!~~~~~

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST...

Now that we have already passed the halfway mark of the Great Forty Days, the theme of encouragement is placed before us so that we would continue with our ascetical efforts and maintain our penitential practices throughout the second half of the Holy Fast. This fourth Great Fast Sunday is also dedicated to a commemoration of our venerable father, Saint John Climacus. He is known as "the author of the ladder of virtues" because he wrote a book entitled *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The practice of observing a commemoration of John Climacus on this fourth Sunday of the Fast was introduced because of the fact that his book was read in its entirety in certain Byzantine monasteries on this particular Sunday. It also was read in segments at other times throughout the holy forty days fast season. Saint John Climacus is one of the greatest ascetics of the Byzantine Church, practicing complete self-control, strict self-denial, rigorous discipline, and firm restraint. He is thus well worthy of being presented to the faithful as an exemplary ascetical model who is to be emulated during this sacred penitential period. His book, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent", consists of thirty steps toward the spiritual perfection of a person. Each step is symbolic of a rung on his ladder of virtues that reaches to heaven, and each rung represents one year in Jesus' life prior to the initiation of His public ministry. The book gives directions to those who would follow the., who was the Hegumen (superior) of the famous monastery of Saint Catherine on Mount Sinai, is a most worthy prototype of the ascetical life from which each of us can draw encouragement to continue with our spiritual endeavors for the remainder of the Holy Great Forty Days Fast. Our Byzantine Catholic Church thus places before us today the holy ascetic, together with this "ladder of virtues," as our guide to the various heights of spiritual life that can and should be attained, especially now during the Holy Great Fast.

OPEN PARISH MEETING: Please join us after the 11am Liturgy on Sunday, 4/3 for our quarterly parish meeting.

PRAYER REQUEST LINE – Please send prayer requests to HolySpiritPrays@gmail.com

RUMMAGE SALE – Thank you to everyone who helped make our spring rummage sale a success!

PEROGI SALE – Perogi are available in the hall after Liturgy until 2pm.

Ukraine Relief: Thank you to everyone who contributed to relief efforts in Ukraine. Your contributions will go to good use.

WHAT PENITENTIAL PRACTICES ARE YOU DOING???

In practical terms, what does the Church require us to do during this sacred penitential great fast season? 1) to fast, not only on the required days, but also self-imposed, personal fasts; 2) Engage in charitable practices – good works of mercy for others; 3) Increase prayer, both public and private: attend church at least once during the week (Monday-Friday), and participate in the Presanctified Divine Liturgy; 4) Frequent confession: approach the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation; 5) Receive Holy Communion often; 6) Perform acts of self-denial: monetary and ascetical; 7) Practice almsgiving by donating daily a sum of money not spent on yourself; 8) Read the Holy Bible, a small portion of the Old and New Testament each day; 9) Make a daily meditation, reading from the Great Fast booklet of reflections for each of the forty days; 10) Keep a period of silence – the "desert experience": quiet time with the Lord, not talking or listening to anyone or anything for a specific time, just offering our thoughts to God. Make this a spiritually meaningful great fast season! Put forth the effort now, and the Lord will bless your endeavors!

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS

Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen.
St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

MOUNT SAINT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER

510 West Main Street, P.O. Box 878, Uniontown, PA 15401 - Phone 724 - 438- 7149 email: hpmsm@verizon.net

Prayer requests or donations can be sent to the above address.

March 29 – 6:30-8:30 pm – Tuesday Evening Informational Presentation in House Program – “Human Trafficking: It’s Closer Than You Think!” – With Patricia Mowen from the Crime Victims’ Center. Program is especially good for parents, grandparents, babysitters, guardians, etc. Space limited. Register early. Proof of vaccination and masks required.

Registration due March 22. Offering: \$20, includes printed materials.

April 5 – 6:30-8:30 on Zoom – Lenten Tuesday Evening on Zoom

Theme: “Today” with Dcn. Stephen Russo, Registration due March 29. Offering: \$30

54th Annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale

Sunday, April 10, 2022 – 11am to 4pm - Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church 220 Mansfield Blvd. Carnegie PA 15106 Over 1200 Pysanky (Easter eggs) and over 300 specialty eggs (goose, ostrich, wood, and more). Ukrainian folk arts and crafts, basket raffles, door prizes. Homemade Ukrainian foods for takeout or dine in/outside. Church tours and talk at 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm with Fr. Charest For info call (412) 527-5359 or (412) 279-2111 - www.orthodoxcarnegie.org or facebook.com/OrthodoxCarnegie/

15th Egg Egg-stravaganza

Sunday, April 3 12pm-4pm. St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 East Main St. Uniontown PA Eggs, supplies, and hands-on opportunities. Easter basket supplies and food. Bake sale. Many raffles will be available. A Lenten lunch menu will be served. Handicapped accessibility.

Fun for the whole family! Free admission! For more information please call 724-438-6027 9am-3pm and leave a message.