

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church
4815 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-2917

Parish Office: 412-687-1220

Website: www.HolySpiritByzCath.com

Prayer Request Line: HolySpiritPrays@gmail.com

Father Michael D. Kunitz, Administrator

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022
THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON
(THE THIRD PRE-GREATFAST SUNDAY)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR MEAT-FARE WEEK

Sunday, February 13:	11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>Dr. Stephen M. Yovino by Stephanie Yovino, wife, & The Ellsworth Family</i>
Monday, February 14:	8:30 a.m. – First and Third Hour 5:00 p.m. – Daily Vespers
Friday, February 18:	8:30 a.m. – First and Third Hour 5:30 p.m. – Divine Liturgy
Saturday, February 19:	<i>Meatfare Saturday: First All-Souls Saturday</i> 11:00 a.m. – Requiem Divine Liturgy and Panachida with the Hramoty
Sunday, February 20:	<i>The Sunday of Meatfare – Judgment Sunday</i> <i>The Fourth Pre-Greatfast Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>John and Mary Modecki by Joseph and Dolores Bacasa, daughter</i>

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

ADULT EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITY....

Formation in our faith does not stop after we've graduated from High School. Education in the faith is a process which continues throughout our whole lifetime and does not even stop on the day we die. Spiritual, intellectual, and practical growth in our faith is formed as much in our public as is in our private prayer lives and is likewise formed as much in our public endeavors for educational enrichment as it is in our private endeavors for educational enrichment. To that end, each month Fr. Michael will be hosting an Eastern Christian Formation opportunity for our parishioners and anyone else interested in attending. These will be announced in the first bulletins of each month. This month, Fr. Michael will give a talk on the use of Iconography in our Byzantine Public Worship. The talk will be held on **Saturday February 19th** in the nave of Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church in Oakland **following the All-Souls Saturday Liturgy**. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

THE THIRD PREPARATORY SUNDAY FOR THE GREAT FAST.....

For the past two Sundays, we have been preparing for the season of the Holy Great Fast, the forty-day penitential period during which the Church calls us annually to **repentance** and to a spiritual renewal. The themes presented thus far have emphasized the first two requisites that are necessary for repentance, namely **desire** and **humility**. This Sunday of the Prodigal Son exemplifies the fact that any sincere act of repentance must entail a recognition of one's sinfulness and must enkindle an attitude of contrition or **SORROW** for having offended God, Who is our ever-loving Father. This parable should reshape our priorities and remind us that apart from God, we have nothing. With God, however, we have blessings on earth, and we have the promise of an eternal inheritance in the heavenly homeland. God the Father speaks to us the same words that the father of this gospel passage speaks to his older son: "You are with me always, and everything that I have is yours." Repentance rightfully is perceived as our return from having been exiled from God. In the act of repentance, it is necessary to show our **sorrow** to our merciful Father (God) for doing wrong and offending Him. When we do this, our compassionate Father will respond to us just as the prodigal son's father showed him mercy and loving forgiveness. Let us emulate the contriteness of heart and the sorrow displayed by the prodigal son as we now approach God, our clement Father, in the sacred act of repentance.

OBSERVANCE HONORING SAINT CYRIL TOMORROW.....

The commemoration in honor of **The Death of Saint Cyril, Apostle of the Slavs**, will take place on **Monday** of this week, **February 14th**. Saint Cyril, who was a monk, and his brother Saint Methodius, who would later become an archbishop, were commissioned by the Byzantine Emperor Michael III in the year 863 A.D. to bring Christianity to the pagan Slavic peoples. Cyril advanced the cause of evangelization among the Slavs by devising an alphabet for the Slavonic language, and it is still called the "cyrillic" alphabet in his honor. Through the missionary endeavors of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the Byzantine Catholic Faith came to the Carpathian Mountains of Ruthenia. Saint Cyril died in Rome on what was Pure Monday, February 14th, in the year 869 A.D., and he is buried in Saint Clement's Basilica .

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY ALSO CELEBRATED ON MONDAY.....

The Feast of the Holy Martyr Saint Valentine will be observed tomorrow, **Monday, February 14th**. Valentine lived in third-century Rome and was a learned physician who had become a priest. He was arrested for exercising his ministry and was condemned to death. While in prison during the last weeks of his life, the jailer asked him to tutor his blind daughter Julia. Valentine not only instructed her academically, but he converted her to Christ. Valentine prayed over her, and miraculously she was cured. On the eve of his execution, Valentine wrote Julia a beautiful note, urging her to remain steadfast in her ardent love for our Lord Jesus. He simply signed this note: "From your Valentine." Saint Valentine was martyred on the 14th of February in 270 A.D., which was True-Worshipping Monday, the second Monday of the Great Fast. He is buried in the Church of Saint Praxedes in Rome. On Saint Valentine's Feastday, messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world. Saint Valentine reminds us what the Holy Evangelist John wrote: "God is love, and.... if God has loved us, then we must love one another." (**I John 4:8b & 11**)

THE FIRST ALL-SOULS SATURDAY WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK

We shall celebrate the **First All-Souls Saturday** this coming week on **Meatfare Saturday, February 26th**. The holy gospel lesson for this day recalls Jesus' Second Coming at the very end of time, and appropriately we address our petitions to God the Father and Creator of all, asking Him to show His infinite mercy on that final day at the terrible Awesome Judgment to all of those souls who have been deemed worthy of the goodness of His eternity of bliss. We, the militant faithful of the earthly Pilgrim Church, can help the "poor souls" of our suffering faithful departed who comprise the purgatorial Expectant Church. We can do this with our prayers, by our various acts of mercy, and most especially through the supplications that we render in someone's behalf during the Divine Liturgy in order that they be admitted as glorified faithful into the Triumphant Church of heaven to participate in the divine life of the Trinity. We take hope and consolation from the words of the Holy Apostle Paul who says: "We don't want you to be in doubt about those who fall asleep in death.... Those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise." (**I Thessalonians 4:13 & 17s**)

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB.....

The Catholic Alumni Club is a non-profit organization providing a framework for single Catholics to meet and socialize with other singles. In addition to social activities, the CAC also provides programs of spiritual development and community service for its members, as well as dinners, trips, mini golf, hiking, volleyball, cultural and many other great events. **SOFTBALL & TENNIS PLAYERS WANTED, CO-ED: SINGLES, 21 AND OVER.** Softball is played in Blawnox, Tennis at Moore Park in Brookline. The CAC of Pittsburgh is looking for players of all abilities. For more information or an application, go to their website: www.cacpittsburgh.org, or contact CAC.Softball@yahoo.com, or Gary.Urbatis@verizon.net, or leave a message at 412-341-4070.

BLESSED CANDLES AVAILABLE.....

Candles which were blessed on the Feast of the Enlightenment, February 2, are now available for purchase after church at the Fifth Avenue side altar. Both glass vigil lights in a variety of colors and decorated tapers, often used for Easter baskets and home prayer corners, are available.