

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4815 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 - Rectory Phone: 412-687-1220

Website: holyspiritbyzcatb.com - Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com

Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

Email: FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

February 8, 2026

Sunday of Meat Fare

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, Feb. 8: Sunday of Meat Fare

7:00 am Matins 7:45 am Rosary, 8:00 am Divine Liturgy

IMO Larry McGuire and sons Larry & David by Joseph & Dolores Bacasa

5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Monday, Feb 9: NO SERVICES

Friday, Feb 13: 5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Great Vespers, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

IMO Thaddeus Kochenski by Rex Kockenski

Saturday, Feb 14: 5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Great Vespers,

Sunday, Feb. 15: Sunday of Cheesefare

7:00 am Matins 7:45 am Rosary, 8:00 am Divine Liturgy **with Ceremony of Mutual Forgiveness**

IHO Martina Revilak by the Revilak Family

5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy **with Ceremony of Mutual Forgiveness**

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

CHURCH CLEANING DAYS: Join us **Saturday, February 21 at 11:00 am** to clean the church. If needed, we will also meet on **Saturday, February 28 at 11:00 am** cleaning supplies will be provided. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please lend a hand if you can.

GIVING TREE FUNDRAISER RESULTS ARE IN! We are happy to share the breakout of the \$1,614 raised during the campaign: Pn. Janine has this information if you're interested in seeing the breakdown.

These funds reduce the amount of money we will need to pull from parish savings. In addition, parishioners will be donating their time on these flooring repair projects A big thank you to everyone who donated! If you are interested in assisting with the repairs, please see Fr. Michael.

THE OFFICE OF YOUTH & ADULT MINISTRY THROUGH THE ARCHEPARCHY WILL BE HOLDING AN ON-LINE GREAT FAST BIBLE STUDY DURING LENT This is a new program that will be held via Zoom and start at 6:00 pm. These sessions are designed for adults 35 and younger. For more information emails can be sent to youth@archpitt.org

DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS FOR GREAT LENT 2026: The Great Fast begins this year on **Pure Monday, February 16th**. The Pittsburgh Protopresbytery of our Byzantine Catholic Archeeparchy will hold its annual Order of Vespers on Sunday afternoons during the Great Fast from February 22nd through March 22nd. Every Sunday clergy

and laity from all over the Deanery come together in a different parish to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation at 3:30 pm and pray the Vespers at 4:00 pm. Each Vespers is followed by a social hour focused on a meager meal of fast-friendly meatless soup. 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. Confessions 3:30 pm – Vespers: 4:00 pm

Cheesefare Sunday, February 15: St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral - 210 Greentree Road Munhall, PA 15120. Forgiveness Vespers

1st Sunday, February 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 Stashkeyvych

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEAGER MEAL SUNDAY MARCH 1ST: Our parish has the honor of hosting the second Deanery Penitential Vespers on March 1st. We need donations of various fast-friendly (meatless) soups, bread, desserts and beverages. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex where you can note what you plan to bring. **We're still looking for dessert options if you're interested in helping.**

We're also planning on having a basket raffle at the Meager Meal. The theme is "Prepping for Pascha." If you're interested in contributing to a basket of items to help people celebrate Pascha this year, please speak with Lynn Walicki or with Fr. Michael.

LENTEN CHARITY 2026: As Great Lent is a time for Fasting, Penance, Prayer, and Almsgiving, the parish will again take monetary collections for a local charity during the Lenten Season. This year, we will be giving to Community Human Services Food Pantry. This group, based in South Oakland, helps the poor, homeless, and less fortunate right here in our neighborhood. Anything we're able to give will be greatly appreciated. Please speak with Mary Dzurichko if you're interested in making a donation.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

2/17 Martina Revilakova

2/27 Sub-Deacon Raphael Ruggerio

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update the directory!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no cost to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

MORNING LITURGY COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

EVENING LITURGY SOCIAL: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. Please join us in the hall following the liturgy for fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

EPISTLE: First Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Now food will not bring us closer to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. But make sure that this liberty of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak. If someone sees you, with your knowledge, reclining at table in the temple of an idol, may not his conscience too, weak as it is, be “built up” to eat the meat sacrificed to idols? Thus, through your knowledge, the weak person is brought to destruction, the brother for whom Christ died. When you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their consciences, weak as they are, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause my brother to sin. Now food will not bring us closer to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? Although I may not be an apostle for others, certainly I am for you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25: 31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

SAINT OF THE DAY: Feb. 7 **The holy great martyr Theodore** was a general in the army of the Emperor Licinius. He suffered death in Heraclea in Thrace. (318)

Feb. 7 **The holy prophet Zechariah**, who prophesied that the Chosen People would return from their exile to the land of promise. He bore the news to them of the king of peace, which Christ the Lord fulfilled marvelously by his triumphant entrance to the holy city Jerusalem.

Feb. 7 **The holy martyr Nicephor**, a Christian from Syria, took the place of Sapricius, who apostatized before a pagan judge. He was put to death during the reign of Emperor Valerian. (260)

Feb. 14 **The passing of our venerable father Constantine, whose monastic name is Cyril, the Apostle of the Slavs.** This man from Thessalonica, along with his brother Methodius, was sent by Photius the bishop of Constantinople to Moravia, where he preached the Christian faith and devised an alphabet that they might translate the sacred books from the Greek to the Slavic language. When they came to Rome, Cyril, who was previously known as Constantine, was afflicted by illness. He was made a monk and the same day slept in the Lord. (869)

Feb. 14 **The venerable Maron, hermit and wonder-worker**, who lived on a mountain near Apamea in Syria, and was very much dedicated to ardent penance and the interior life. At his famous tomb a monastery was built. The Maronite Catholic Church takes its name from this saint. (c. 423)

Feb. 14 **Our venerable father Auxentius on Mount Skopa [modern Siope]** in Bithynia, priest and archimandrite, who argued the Chalcedonian faith with a strong voice in a prominent place as if established in a position of authority. (5th century)

ON-LINE GIVING IS HERE! If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank You for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

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.