

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Website: holyspiritbyzcath.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 22, 2026

First Sunday of Great Lent

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, Feb. 22: First Sunday of the Great Fast

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

IMO John & Mary Modecki Family by their Daughter Dolores Bacasa

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Monday, Feb. 23: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Akathist Prayers to Our Lady Searcher of Lost Souls

Wednesday, Feb. 25: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Friday, Feb. 27: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Saturday, Feb. 28: ALL SOULS SATURDAY

12:30 pm Divine Liturgy with Panachida for All Souls

5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, Mar. 1: Second Sunday of the Great Fast

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

IMO Anne Petro by Ron & Dianna Dunnington

3:30 Confessions, 4:00 pm Deanery Vespers

NO 6 pm SERVICE

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.

THANK YOU!! To everyone that helped with the church cleaning yesterday, especially Janine & Dave Gritzer, Mandy & Anthony DiSaia, Tom Martz, Theresa Carr, and Mary Dzurichko. We will also be meeting on Saturday, February 28 after the 12:30 PM All Souls Liturgy to continue with the cleaning and set up the hall for Sunday's meager meal. If you'd like to help clean up and come in at a different time this week, please speak to Fr. Michael to make your arrangements. Supplies will be provided. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please lend a hand if you can.

BASKET RAFFLE: Today is the last day to contribute items for the basket raffle at the Meager Meal. The theme is "Prepping for Pascha." If you're interested in helping, please speak with Lynne Walicki or 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 the local charity, **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 donating.

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.**

DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS FOR GREAT LENT 2026: The Pittsburgh Protopresbytery of our Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy 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

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 Stashkevych

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

(PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 6PM DIVINE LITURGY ON MARCH 22)

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!

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

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: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

Brethren: By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he wished to be ill-treated along with God's people rather than enjoy the fleeting rewards of sin. Moses considered the reproach borne by God's Anointed greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

What more shall I recount? I have no time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was just, obtained the promises; they broke the jaws of lions, put out raging fires, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Others were tortured and would not receive deliverance in order to obtain a better resurrection. Still others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point, they went about garbed in the skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, they dwelt in caves and in holes of the earth. Yet despite the fact that all of these were approved because of their faith, they did not obtain what had been promised. God had made a better plan, a plan which included us. Without us, they were not to be made perfect. Therefore, since we for our part are surrounded by this cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every encumbrance of sin which clings to us and persevere in running the race which lies ahead, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith.

GOSPEL: John 1: 43-51

The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

SAINT OF THE DAY: 2/22 The Finding of the venerable relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia near Constantinople. During the reign of the emperor Arcadius, a divine revelation showed the burial place of these martyrs of whom it was said, "God alone knows their names, and he has written them in the Book of Life in heaven."

2/24 The first and second findings of the head of the Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John. Tradition tells us that the first finding was by two monks, in the palace of Herod the King. They brought the relic to the city of Emmesia. The second finding was much later, during the reign of the emperor Marcianus.

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 OBSM, 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.