

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero
Angelino and Emanuel Revilak

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

SUNDAY OF THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

<i>Sunday, March 20, 2022</i>	<i>+ Deceased George Bacasa by Mrs. Theresa Carr + Deceased George Carr by Ms. Mary Dzurichko and Ms. Catherine Warhola</i>
<i>Sunday, March 20, 2022</i>	<i>Great Fast Vespers, Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks Confessions 3:30, service at 4pm, dinner after</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 23, 2022</i>	<i>11:30 – Tierce-Sext followed by 4:30 - Confession 5:30 – Presanctified Liturgy</i>
<i>Friday, March 25, 2022</i>	<i>6pm – Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation</i>
<i>Saturday, March 26, 2022</i>	<i>9am – Divine Liturgy</i>
<i>Sunday, March 27, 2022</i>	<i>9:00 am - Intentions of the Parish</i>

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

RUMMAGE SALE - Saturday, March 26, 2022 -- Flea Market, 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Lots of items for the home, books, LPs, clothes. Great prices! All are welcome! **Volunteers are also appreciated.**

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

LENTEN CHARITY DRIVE - On-going during Lent. This year's charity drive will be for monetary donations to assist the Ladies of Charity of Saint Raphael The Archangel Parish of Carnegie, Greentree, and Scott Township, who provide regular support for the following local charities: The Bradley Center, which aids children and teenagers who experience trauma, mental illness, and behavioral changes; Operation Safety Net, which benefits from monthly premade lunch packages and snacks for the homeless arriving at the Wellspring Drop-In Center in Pittsburgh's Uptown; Fleece Blanket Project for the homeless and needy around Pittsburgh, purchasing fabric and assembling fleece tie blankets. Donations can be dropped off at any church service, at the Flea Market, or mailed to the church. **Cash can be donated in the back of the church. Please make checks out to Holy Spirit Parish.**

Hebrews 4: 14 thru 5: 6

Brethren: Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our profession of faith. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favor and to find help in time of need.

Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with erring sinners, for he himself is beset by weakness and so must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. One does not take this honor on his own initiative, but only when called by God as Aaron was. Even Christ did not glorify himself with the office of high priest; he received it from the One who said to him, "You are my son; today I have begotten you"; just as he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

~~~~~As we arrive at the midpoint of the Great Fast, this epistle lesson taken from the letter to the Jewish Christians of antiquity, accentuates the fact that Jesus, the Son of God, is our divinely appointed and duly qualified High Priest. God the Father sent His Son to earth so that as a Man, the Son of God would be the Mediator to the Father in behalf of the entire human race. God's Son Himself then would offer The consummate sacrifice to His Father for the expiation of mankind's sins. As our great High Priest, Jesus knew the totality of our human condition. He was like us in every respect except sin. He became humanity's representative before God in making the ultimate sacrifice upon the sacred wood of the venerable Cross. Jesus is The High Priest, and only He could offer this definitive sacrifice. His very life upon that lonely and desolate tree – the true Cross on which reparation was made for the sins of the whole world.~~~~~

## **GOSPEL; Mark 8: 34 – 9: 1 (Section 37)**

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for the sake of the gospel will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? What could one give in exchange for his life? Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in his faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.

He also said to them, "Amen I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come in power."

~~~~~The theme for this third Great Fast Sunday is the doctrine of the life-giving Cross, and it will be amplified during this fourth week of the Great Forty Days. In today's gospel account, the Holy Evangelist Mark tells us how Jesus spoke of the cost of discipleship – of following after Him. "If anyone wants to follow in My footsteps, he must give up all right to himself; take up his cross, and follow Me!" It is readily evident that Jesus' true followers must have an actual cross; it must be carried willingly, and it must be shouldered for the sake of Jesus, our Master. This is no easy task! This invitation is a most difficult challenge, and it is only with God's help that it can be done. The requisites as set forth by Jesus are stiff; but the rewards are magnificent! If we desire to be a committed follower of the Lord Jesus, then we cannot avoid carrying the honorable Cross as the Supreme Crossbearer Himself willingly did in our behalf.~~~~~

THE SUNDAY OF THE VICTORIOUS VENERATION OF THE GLORIOUS CROSS....

We have reached today the midpoint in our observance of the Holy Forty Days Fast. Three weeks have passed and three weeks still remain. The third Great Fast Sunday acquires a special significance and is known as Cross Veneration Sunday. The Church is very cognizant of the fact that we often begin things with the best of intentions, but because of our lax human nature and the mundane distractions that we encounter daily, we are quick to weaken in our efforts and as time passes, we then tend to become disinterested and/or discouraged. Therefore, our Byzantine Catholic Church triumphantly displays the majestic cross of the Lord in the very middle of the Great Forty Days Fast as a glorious symbol of victory to weakening humanity in order that we might draw strength as we continue with our penitential practices and our ascetical efforts during the remainder of the Great Fast. Throughout Cross Veneration Week, each time that we enter or leave the Church, we always make our way to the Golgotha of the tetra pod to venerate the honored wood of the meritorious cross. We venerate the worthy cross of Christ by approaching the tetrapod; making two metanias (a deep bow, lowering the hand

to touch the floor and then making the sign of the cross) kissing the holy cross; and then again making another metany. Each time that we make these three metanies, we repeat silently to ourselves: "O God, cleanse me, a sinner!" In visual commemoration of the passion of our Lord signified by His life creating cross and the divine Blood which Jesus poured forth during His redemptive sacrifice upon the salvific tree of His august cross, red vestments are used today as well as on all of the weekdays throughout the greatfast season. The faithful should wear something red on Cross Veneration Sunday and during Cross Veneration Week in symbolic tribute to the praiseworthy cross, the laudable passion, and the sanctifying Blood of Jesus. The splendid cross is the esteemed emblem of our salvation and the sign of Christ's victory over Satan and human passions. It is precisely from this wondrous tree – Jesus' admirable cross – that we draw our spiritual strength. Christians must carry their own real crosses daily if they aspire to be genuine followers of the crucified Lord Jesus and thereby save their immortal souls!

Our Sincere Thanks!

It was an honor and a blessing to celebrate Simeon's sacraments of initiation with the community. We are humbled by your support, both physically and spiritually. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In peace, The Kunitz Family

The Open Parish Meeting is rescheduled for Saturday, April 2, 2022 following Divine Liturgy at 12 Noon

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 greatfast 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

COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE

The Archdiocese is collecting for our Eparchy of Muckachevo, Ukraine **Today**, the third Sunday of the Great Fast. Checks can be made to Holy Spirit Parish with “Help to Ukraine” in the memo. Your generosity and prayers are much appreciated.

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. John Charest

For info call (412) 527-5359 or (412) 279-2111 - www.orthodoxcarnegie.org or facebook.com/OrthodoxCarnegie/