

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Website: holyspiritbyzcah.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 1, 2026

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, Feb. 1: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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

IMO Msgr. Duker by Cathy Warhola

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

IHO Bengt Larson by his parents Isak & Dawn Larson

Monday, Feb 2: Solemn Holy Day – Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon

6:00 pm Confessions, **7:00 pm Divine Liturgy**

IHO Ronald E. Dudek by Casey Dudek

Friday, Feb 6: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Vigil Divine Liturgy with Panachida

IMO all the Departed Anticipated for 1st All Souls Saturday

Saturday, Feb 7: GENERAL PARISH MEETING – 12:30

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

Sunday, Feb. 8: Sunday of Meat Fare

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

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

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 OUR SNOW ANGELS: Special thank you to Pani Jani, Tom Martz and Cathy Warhola for all the snow removal they did after last week's storm.

GENERAL PARISH MEETING: Due to inclement weather concerns, the General Parish Meeting has been **MOVED TO FEBRUARY 7 AT 12:30**. Lunch will be provided by the Holy Spirit Guild. We hope to see you there!

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.

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.

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 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

MEAGER MEAL SUNDAY MARCH 1st: Our parish has the honor of hosting the second Deanery Penitential Vespers on March 1st. Volunteers are needed to contribute various fast-friendly (meatless) soups, bread, desserts, and beverages for that evening. Volunteers may find a sign-up sheet in the Narthex with which to note what you plan on bringing.

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

Martina Revilakova 2/17

Subdcn. Ralph Ruggerio 2/27

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

THE GIVING TREE IS STAYING UP: Please consider participating in our Giving Tree fundraiser. This year we will be focusing on various floors in the property which have become tripping hazards, etc. We hope to use any funds raised to handle necessary repairs and pull from parish savings as little as possible. **To date we have received just over \$1,600. In addition, a new sweeper and carpet cleaner have been generously donated.** More information is in the narthex. Thank you to everyone who has already donated!

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. **The signup sheet is in the kitchen!** 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 6: 12-20

“Everything is lawful for me, “but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is lawful for me,” but I will not let myself be dominated by anything. “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food,” but God will do away with both the one and the other. The body, however, is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take Christ’s members and make them the members of a prostitute? Of course not! (Or) do you not know that anyone who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For “the two,” it says, “will become one flesh.” But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple* of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.

GOSPEL: Luke 15: 11-32

“A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ So, the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So, he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father, and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’ So, he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, ‘Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him said to his father in reply, ‘Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.’ He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’”

SAINT OF THE DAY: Feb. 1 **The holy martyr Tryphon**, put to death during the reign of the persecutor Decius. (250)

Feb. 2 **THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST WITH SIMEON AND ANNA**, celebrated forty days after the Birth of the Savior on Dec. 25. Coming to his believing and exultant people, as “a light to enlighten the nations and the glory of his people Israel.” St. Sophronius of Jerusalem wrote about this feast: “Let us all hasten to meet (encounter) Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light. Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the One who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal Light.”

Feb. 3 **The Synaxis of the holy prophet Simeon and the prophetess Anna**, who, the one a righteous and devout old man, and the other a widow and prophetess, were worthy to hail the infant Jesus as the Messiah and Savior, the blessed hope and redemption of Israel, when he had been brought to the temple to be circumcised according to the custom of the law. All we know of them is given in the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.

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.