

**Parish Offerings – 24th Sunday after Pentecost — Nov. 12, 2023**

“Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)

**Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks**

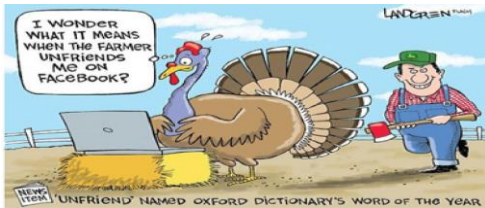
Regular Offering (\$2,161) YP (\$8) .....	\$2,169.00
Holy Days (\$153) YP (\$4) Thanksgiving (\$10) .....	167.00
Archdiocesan Charities (\$115) Bakeless Bake Sale (\$170) .....	285.00
Votive Candles .....	239.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,860.00

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$746) YP (\$1) .....	\$747.00
Holy Days (\$45) Thanksgiving (\$5) .....	50.00
Utilities (\$10) Improv. (\$5) Archdio. Charities (\$5) .....	20.00
Bakeless Bake Sale (\$130) Votive Candles (\$114) .....	244.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,061.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28)  
9:00 a.m. (67); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)



**Valerian F. Szal**

238 Helen St.,  
Phone: (412) 331-9713

**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP

*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085

North Side Parishioner  
**Alan Valeriano**  
(412) 638-3417  
PA #172370



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

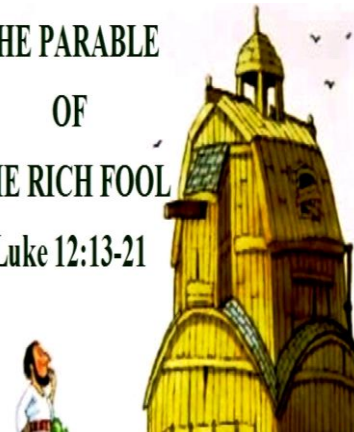
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Philipian Fast — Nov.19, 2023**

THE PARABLE  
OF  
THE RICH FOOL  
Luke 12:13-21



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

**The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor**  
**The Reverend Deacon Michael Meaders (NS)**

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870  
MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Web-site: [www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com) then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream**

Sunday Divine Liturgies  
Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm  
Sunday (MR) 9:00 am  
Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m.

Holy Day Divine Liturgies  
w/Great Vespers (Oblig)  
(MR): 7:00 pm  
Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm

Daily Divine Liturgy  
M-F (MR) 8:00 am  
Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am

Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.

Holy Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.

Sacramental Call to Homebound, Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: c-rsmedia.org.

Social Hall Rental: (MR) Contact Church Office.

New & Returning Parishioners: Welcome! Please register by phoning the Church Office.

**Remember the Church in Your Will:** Please be so kind to remember the Church in your last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!

# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

When the Most High descended and confused tongues, He scattered the people; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all men to unity. Therefore, with one voice, let us glorify the Most Holy Spirit (Matins of Pentecost Sunday).

November 19, 2023      Seasonal Greeting:      Volume XIII Number 47

Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!  
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!

## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date      Time      Intention      Requested By

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN, Nov 19 (5) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Hopey      Anonymous  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marie Wittmer (birthday 11/23)      Sister: Joan Senchyshyn

#### Prefestive of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Mon, Nov 20 (6) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Beverly Harsh      Kulka & Wickline Families


### Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

#### Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

TUE, Nov 21 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Debranski (17<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)      Dgtr: Nancy  
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

#### The Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

 for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith  
Wed, Nov 22 (8) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving      Kendrach Family

 **Annual Thanksgiving Day**   
Thrs, Nov 23 (9) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving for all God's Blessings

Fri, Nov 24 (10) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores Kosko      + Irene O. Bordas & Family

#### Final Day of the Feast of the Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple

Sat, Nov 25 (11) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

#### Anticipated Divine Liturgy of Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alphonse A. Siglow (13<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 11/30) Dgtr: Kathryn & William Kress

### 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Nov 25 (12) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Dan Pikras      Son: Dino & Family  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + George Fecik (1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 11/30)      Anonymous

# General Announcements

All Birthdays will be published in SOT each week so that prayers may be offered on these special occasions. Please advise the Church office if your special day does not appear or if you wish your name and date not to be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Nov 19 — John R. Chomko; Nov 21 — MARLENE PFEIFFER, Michael A. Tomchak; Nov 23 — Harry Harron.

### Pray For the Ill, Infirm & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Margaret Beliuonas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Elizabeth Poznak, Betty Spisak, MONSIGNOR PETER TAY, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.  
HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.  
CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.  
VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.  
THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrulak, Mildred Terrek.  
LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.

#### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. It is my understanding that we should be cleansed of our sins before we receive the Eucharist. A. Catholic Answers Apologist: Receiving Christ in the Eucharist forgives venial sins. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity wipes away venial sins" (CCC 1394). However, the reception of the Eucharist does not forgive mortal sins, so a person who is conscious of mortal sin (eg. Ten Commandments, 6 Precepts of the Church) must go to confession before receiving communion. When a person conscious of mortal sin receives the Eucharist without prior forgiveness he commits another mortal sin and only compounds his desperate situation. Paul tells us, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27). The Church calls this a sacrilege which is profaning or treating unworthily the sacraments and other liturgical actions, as well as persons, things, or places consecrated to God (CCC 2120).

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

Continue to burn before the real presence of our Lord, God & Savior Jesus

**November 19 — November 25, 2023**

(MR): In memory of John R. Debranski (17<sup>th</sup> ann of pass 11/21)

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS): In memory of Marie Wittmer (birthday 11/23)

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Sister: Joan Senchyshyn

(NS) AVAILABLE 2024

# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**PHILIPPIAN FAST PIROHI SALES HALT ONE WEEK** — There will be NO Pirohi Sales



this Friday, November 24 but they **will resume on December 1, 8 & 15. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, or by phoning on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155.** Eat-ins will still be available. We could still use additional help, especially pinchers when we resume!. Thanks to all of

you who continue to make this project profitable to the Church. God bless you.

**ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR AREA LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN** — GCU Pittsburgh

Northwest Lodge is, once again, holding a fraternal activity to help area children who may not be getting much for Christmas this year. This project is the ANGEL TREE located near the elevator in the side vestibule. Over the years, they really went fast! If you would like to participate and make a child's Christmas a little brighter this year you are asked to take an angel from the tree. It will have a child's age listed on the back. You are asked to purchase a gift and bring it back to the tree **UNWRAPPED with the angel taped on it** no later than **Sunday, December 3.** Holy Family Social Services and Family Foundation will distribute these gifts to the children in time for Christmas. Let's send this entire tree of angels in the form of gifts to these under-privileged children. You may call to make a donation to the project and we will do the shopping in your name. **Call Barb Stecko (412) 334-8245.**



## North Side

**BAKELESS BAKE SALE & 50/50 RAFFLE FOR THANKSGIVING** — We are continuing these two social activities in time for Thanksgiving Holiday including a Bakeless Bake Sale.



We will see if matching funds from GCU Headquarters are available. Tickets will be available at the weekend Divine Liturgy. If you wish to contribute to the Bakeless Bake Sale, place your donation in a white envelope with your name, envelope number, and amount. Both Churches will be credited on your donation statement for tax purposes. Both

the Raffle and Bakeless Bake Sale will terminate on **Sunday, November 26 and the day the drawing will take place.** The proceeds will be applied to our *Tower Bell Project*.

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE** — In our love for the less fortunate, we will be holding our annual non-perishable food drive to be delivered to *Inter-Church Food Drive*, in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please bring the non-expired items to the Church and place them at the entrance. Julia & George Mosko will be delivering these items to the food bank in time for Thanksgiving & Christmas.

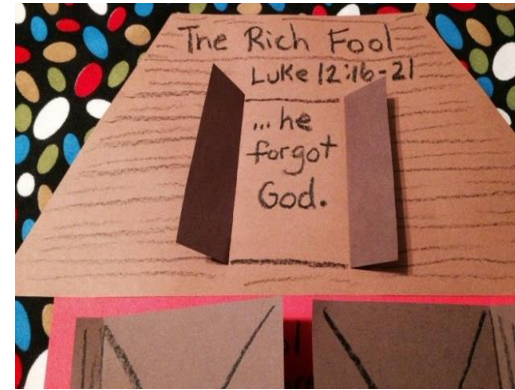


# Meditation on today's Gospel

*A godly life is more important than material things*

**Luke 12:16-21**

In Luke 12:13-21, a listener in the crowd surrounding Jesus asks Him to instruct his brother to divide the inheritance due to him equitably. Jesus declines, saying that life should not be based on having many possessions. He uses this occasion to teach His disciples that a godly life is more important than material things.

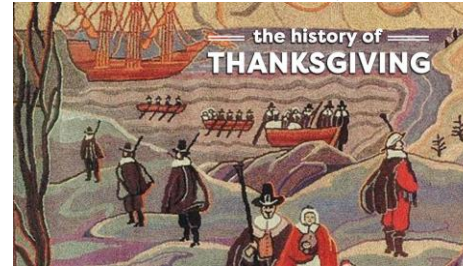


To explain this, He tells a parable about a rich man who builds larger and larger barns to store all his crops and goods. Since he had everything he could possibly want or need, the rich man's focus was on living an easy life.

God's response is that the man was foolish because, when he died later that night, his goods would do nothing for him. Someone else would inherit and enjoy them. A person whose life is caught up in what he owns is not rich toward God. The Parable of the Rich Fool illustrates Jesus' teaching to guard against every kind of covetousness.

## Annual Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving is a federal holiday in the United States, celebrated on the fourth Thursday



of November. It originated as a harvest festival. Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, with a proclamation by George Washington after a request by Congress. Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, when

Thanksgiving became a federal holiday in 1863, during the American Civil War. Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the date was changed between 1939 and 1941 amid significant controversy. From 1942 onwards, Thanksgiving has been proclaimed by Congress as being on the fourth Thursday in November. Thanksgiving is regarded as being the beginning of the fall-winter holiday season, along with Christmas and the New Year, in American culture.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

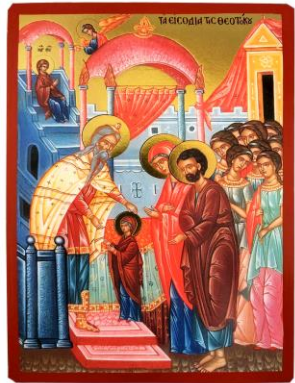
November 19 ..... Moleben to Blessed-Martyr Theodore G. Romzha, Cathedral @ 3:00 p.m.  
 November 21 .. Solemn HD: Entrance into the Temple of Theotokos (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 November 23 ..... Annual Thanksgiving Day — (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.  
 November 26 ..... Decorating the (MR) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.  
 November 26 ..... Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.  
 December 3 ..... (MR) Parish & Archieparchial St. Nicholas Celebration.  
 December 6 ..... Solemn Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 December 8 ..... Solemn Feast of Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 December 17 ..... Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.  
 ..... Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 3:00 p.m.  
 December 22 ..... (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 p.m. DL of St. John Chrysostom.  
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### Regular Weekend Schedule & Sunday, Christmas Eve

8:00 p.m. (MR) Great Compline followed by Christmas Carols; 9:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy.  
**December 25 . 9:00 a.m. (MR) Christmas Divine Liturgy; 11:00 a.m. (NS) Christmas Divine Liturgy.**  
 December 26 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.  
 December 27 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen DL – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

## Solemn Holy Day of the Week – Nov. 21 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

The origin of the feast is found in an account in the apocryphal Protoevangelium of Saint James. According to this document, after Saint Anne's miraculous birth-giving, the Most Holy Virgin having completed her second year, Joachim said to his wife: "Let us lead her to the Lord's Temple, as we promised Him." Ann said: "Let us yet wait until her third year, so that the child will not clamor for her father or mother, thus she will not walk straight before the Lord." When the child was three years old, Joachim said: "Let us call from among the daughters of the Hebrews those who are undefiled, and let them each take a lamp and let these lamps be lit, that the child not turn to look backward and her heart be not held captive outside the Lord's Temple." They did thusly. Zachary the priest received her and said to her:



"May the Lord crown your name with glory!", and he set her down on the altar step. There, Mary was nourished by an angel until she was twelve years old. When the time came for her to marry, Joseph received her from the priests' hands, and took her from the Lord's Temple. Whatever the foundations of this gracious legend may be, the Church invites us above all to meditate on the mystery of the internal preparation of Mary for her vocation as Theotokos. This preparation is a total self-commitment, in the "immaculate victim," "as a most holy vessel" which must receive the body of the Word incarnate, "a living temple and throne of the King, elected to be his Mother," "the spiritual ark enclosing the incomprehensible Word." The miracle of her subsistence by the hand of the Archangel is the symbol of her spiritual life entirely nourished by the will of God. **Come and pray with us at the Divine Liturgy. See the liturgical schedule for times.**

# General Announcements

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK: SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS** — We began our first full



week of our journey through the **PHILIPPIAN FAST** this past Nov. 15. It is called the Philippian Fast (Filipovka in Church Slavonic) since it began the day after the Apostle Phillip's Feast (Nov. 14). It is comparable to the Western Rite's Advent Season. The Byzantine Catholic Church does not use the Latin Language to describe this penitential season (eg. Advent), since its traditional language is based on the Greek. This minor penitential period directs us to prepare ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. May we allow Him to be reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. Through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings of mercy, frequent sacramental confession of sins, and additional attendances at the Divine Liturgies we can accomplish this end. The color purple is donned in our Churches to signify the coming of ROYALTY (Jesus) to the cave of Bethlehem to be born in the flesh. *Together as a parish, let us collectively practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (REQUIRED) for the intention of the return of our beloved back to the fullness of the Faith.*

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRESENTATION TODAY** — Following this morning's Divine Liturgy, Subdeacon Luke will make a presentation on the **Catechesis of Baptism and Chrismation**.

**INVITATION TO OUR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION** — Sunday, December 3, 2023 following the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. Program: for Youth Group presentation focusing on life and inspiration of St. Nicholas. Presentations will be short and story based presented by some youth group members. We are committed in teaching the Faith to our children and pray that by your attendance it will inspire our children to a greater love of Christ and His Church.



**YOUTH GROUP TAKING CANDY ORDERS THE VIRTUAL WAY** — Every two years our Youth Group attends the **Byzan-TEEN Rally**. It is a wonderful chance for our youth to meet

other Byzantine Catholics from across the country. In 2024 we are hoping to send Teens to California. To defray the cost, the Holy Ghost Youth Group is holding a virtual fundraiser from Sarris Candies. This is a contactless fundraiser and all purchases will be shipped directly to the buyer free of charge. You can purchase anything from the company and we will receive 25% of the sale. Just follow these steps and candy will be on the way:

1. Go to [sarris Candies Fundraising](http://sarris Candies Fundraising)
2. Go to the "fundraising" tab.
3. Our group code is 10-3617.
4. You do not have to put in a teen's name unless you want to.
5. Shop!