

**Parish Offerings – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — August 13, 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 (\$1,650) YP (\$9) .....	\$1,659.00
Holy Days (\$201) YP (\$2) .....	203.00
Votive Candles .....	177.35
	<hr/>
	\$2,039.35

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$774) YP (\$1) .....	\$775.00
Holy Days .....	60.00
Improvements (\$25) Utilities (\$10) .....	35.00
Votive Candles .....	64.50

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$934.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (30)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)

*Dormition of the Theotokos (Obligation) Blessing of flowers & herbs*

Mon., Aug. 14, – (MR) 7:00 p.m. (13); Tue., Aug. 15 – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (30); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (29)



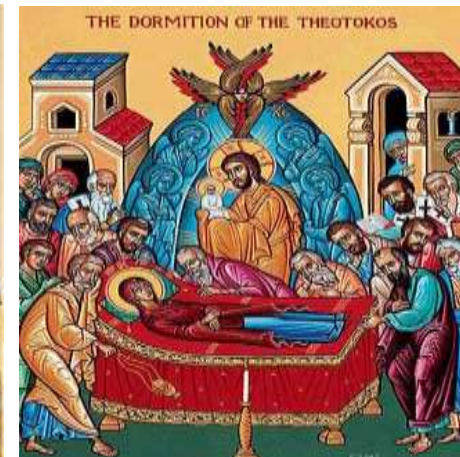
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Postfestive of the Dormition Feast — Aug. 20, 2023**



**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.

Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact pastor one year in advance; Pre-Cana Classes required.

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!

**Valerian F. Szal**

238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Phone: (412)  
331-9713

Fax: (412) 331-6688

**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
*// Serving Yours Since 1953*

**I really need  
a day between  
Saturday  
and  
Sunday.**



aunty acid

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North Side Parishioner

**Alan Valeriano**

**(412) 638-3417**

**PA #172378**

# 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).

August 20, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 34



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

**Postfestive of the Dormition Feast — Blessing of Students & Teachers**

**SUN, Aug 20** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann A. Kohan Sister: Dolores & Ted Babin  
(2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing)  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ann M. Lecci Mary Ann Smoley  
3:00 P.M. (MR) Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of Ordination to the Subdiaconate & Diaconate of Seminarian-Reader Nathaniel Tapsak

Mon, Aug 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Robert J. Karl Elaine Kurtanich  
10:00 a.m. (MR) + Funeral of Demosthenes (Dan) Pikras


Tue, Aug 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare (birthday) Albert Barnash

#### Final Day of the Dormition Feast

Wed, Aug 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alex Gimon (birthday 8/20) Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar

Thrs, Aug 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George Duessel Br. Regis, O.F.M.

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) s**

Fri, Aug 25  8:00 a.m.(MR) + Julia (Miklos) Sibenik Son: Steven  
(7<sup>th</sup> ann. of passing)

Sat, Aug 26 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Olga Manfredo Anonymous

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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak Brother: Burt & Nanine

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

**SUN, Aug 27** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kulka Children: Kathy & John  
(17<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/26)

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

## 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

**Aug 12** – Linda Reiger (belated, sorry!); **Aug 20** – Nina Lecci; **Aug 21** – Carmella Marie Rippole; **Aug 22** – Albert Barnash; **Aug 25** – Lori Lee Rippole.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Belionas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Kurt Marks, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Elizabeth Poznak, GERALD SLAGLE, 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, Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.  
**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.  
**UPMC PRESBYTERIAN** (200 Lothrop Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213): Betty Warhola.

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

**Q.** Are we obligated to forgive someone who has not asked for forgiveness? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Yes, we must forgive him. As Jesus makes clear in the Sermon on the Mount after providing the Lord's Prayer, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14-15). Jesus sets the example on the cross in asking his Father to forgive those who have crucified him. On the other hand, we need not necessarily associate with a person we forgive, especially if the wrongdoing he has committed against us is grave. And even if someone has repented of a grave offense, we need not necessarily associate with him. For example, if a woman has been sexually assaulted by a friend, she is morally obligated to forgive that friend but not morally obligated to continue having a friendship.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**August 20 – August 26, 2023**

(MR): **In memory of Claudia C. Verner** (birthday 8/22)

offered by Husband: George

(NS): **Health & Welfare** (Birthday 8/22)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Al Barnash

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2023



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**MINOR & MAJOR ORDINATION TODAY AT HOLY GHOST CHURCH** — The Ordination of the Subdiaconate & Diaconate upon Seminarian Nathaniel Tapsak will take place this afternoon @ **3:00 p.m.** by Archbishop Skurla. Currently, This is a great opportunity to witness the second and third steps to the Holy Priesthood. The Tapsak-Wohar Families will be hosting the social that follows. They wish all that attend the Ordination Ceremony to join them in the gym. This is a distinct honor for our Parish. Let us show support to Nathaniel as he continues his journey to the altar of God! Please attend the Ordination Ceremony. This Hierarchical Divine Liturgy fulfills the Sunday Obligation.



**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Demosthenes (Dan) Pikras, 93**, of Bridgeville, PA on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the Victoria Manor Personal Care Facility, Oakdale. He is survived by . Beloved father to niece Alexandra (Kiki) Brooks, Dino (Kathy) Pikras, George Pikras, Dannielle Pikras (Michael Archer). Adoring and grandfather to Athena Pikras, Nico (Megan) Pikras, Julian Pikras. Uncle to many nieces and nephews, Funeral arrangements are handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. The Funeral Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at Holy Ghost Church on Monday, August 21 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will be St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. Parastas is offered Sunday at 7:30 p.m. In blessed repose grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Dan, and remember him forever. Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



**CHURCH KITCHEN BASEMENT PIPE REPAIRED** — Water was dripping from the ceiling near the sink area. Matt Mertz Plumbing had to replace a portion of a 1" cooper waterline at a cost of \$320.00. You would be surprised what damage a little pinhole leak can do to ceiling tiles which also have to be replaced. Once again, thank you for your weekly sacrificial donations towards repair that make it possible for the surprises that do occur.

## North Side

### No Particular Announcements this Week

**DO YOU HAVE CHURCH CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** — Soon the 2024 Church envelopes will be arriving here at the office. We are beginning to make the switch from this year to the next. If you have not used envelopes within the past two years, your name is probably not in the church's format. Church envelopes are a necessary part of the administrative workings of the parish. To be considered an active contributing member of the parish, which helps us meet our fiduciary responsibilities, we very much need your participation. Also, participation in capital donations is required to stand as a sponsor for Baptism, and Chrismation, Funerals, Weddings, etc. and other activities. **You are encouraged to be enrolled in this aspect of the church.** If you are currently without envelopes, and would like to become an active contributing member with 2024 envelopes, **please call the Church office before the August 31, 2023 deadline.** Our Church appreciates you and wishes to serve you as a fully active member. Adult envelopes begin with all who have graduated high school.

# TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Jesus offers the same challenge today As He offered the Rich Man in today's Gospel (Matthew 19: 16-26)

The great truth of this story lies in the way it illumines the meaning of eternal life. Eternal life is life such as God himself lives. The word for eternal is aionios, which does not mean lasting or ever; it means such as befits God, or such as belongs to God, or such as is characteristic of God.



The great characteristic of God is that He so loved and He gave. Therefore, the essence of eternal life is not a carefully calculated keeping of the commandments and the rules and the regulations; **eternal life is based on an attitude of loving and sacrificial generosity to our fellow-men.**

If we would find eternal life, if we would find happiness, joy, satisfaction, peace of mind and serenity of heart, it shall not be by piling up a credit balance with God through keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations; it shall be through reproducing God's attitude of love and care to our fellow-men. To follow Christ and in grace and generosity to serve the men for whom Christ died are one and the same thing. In the end the young man turned away in great distress. He refused the challenge, because he had great possessions. His tragedy was that he loved things more than he loved people; and he loved himself more than he loved others. Any man who puts things before people and self before others, must turn his back on Jesus Christ.

## How do you Determine if you can receive Holy Communion or not?

By your examining your conscience to determine, as best as you can, whether you are in the state of grace. If you have committed any mortal sins that have not been confessed, you ARE NOT in the state of grace (1 Cor 11:28). If you are in the state of grace, you can and should receive the Eucharist. If you are not, you should not receive it. To do so would be the sin of sacrilege (1 Cor 11:27; CCC 1385).

As you grow in the spiritual life, you will generally find it is easier to determine whether you have committed any mortal sins (1 Jn 3:19-24, 4:13). In the meantime, learn and abide by the moral teachings of our Faith. They are essentially the Ten Commandments, the Six Precepts of the Church, and the virtues and vices that draw us near or apart from God's Plan for us.



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 19-20	School Year Blessing of Students & Teachers.
August 20	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Ordination to the Subdiaconate & Diaconate @ 3:00 pm.
August 29	Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
September 1	Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
September 1-4	87 <sup>th</sup> Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina.
September 4	Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday. Morning Divine Liturgy (MR) 9:00 a.m.
September 8	Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
September 10	Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm

## Saints of the Week

### The Holy Martyrs Adrian & Natalia – Aug. 26

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married in their youth for one year prior to their martyrdom, and lived in Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). The emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial.



Then the denunciations began. Adrian, the head of the praetorium, watched as Christians suffered with such courage for their faith. Seeing how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, asked: "What rewards do you expect from your God for your suffering?" The martyrs replied: "Such rewards as we are not able to describe, nor can your mind comprehend." St Adrian told the scribes, "Write my name down also, for I am a Christian and I die gladly for Christ God." The scribes reported this to the emperor, who summoned St Adrian and asked: "Really, have you gone mad, that you want to die? Come, cross out your name from the lists and offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness." St Adrian answered: "I have not lost my mind, but rather have I found

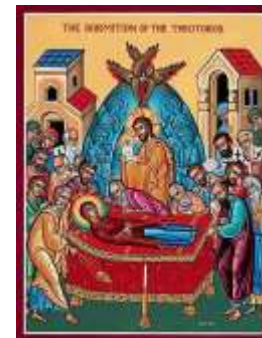
it." Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, St Natalia, knowing that her husband was to suffer for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian. She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: **"You are blessed, my lord, because you have believed in Christ. You have obtained a great treasure. Do not regret anything earthly, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds are pleasing to God."** .... They tortured St Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: "Let your gods say what blessings they promise me, and then I shall worship them, but if they cannot do this, then why should I worship them?" St Natalia did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to pray to God for her, that they would not force her into marriage with a pagan after his death. The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. St Natalia, fearing that her husband would hesitate on seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, asked the executioner to begin with him, and permit her to put his hands and legs on the anvil herself. They wanted to burn the bodies of the saints, but a storm arose and the fire went out. Many of the executioners even were struck by lightning. St Natalia took the hand of her husband and kept it at home. Soon an army commander asked the emperor's approval to wed St Natalia, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium. St Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. The martyr, worn out by her former sufferings, in fact soon fell asleep in the Lord.

# General Announcements

**BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS TODAY** — Following each of the Divine Liturgies **this weekend August 19-20, 2023** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the Academic Year of 2023-2024 in their various schools, colleges, and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing comes the third weekend of August. Receive God's blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy.



**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK** — Last Tuesday, Aug. 15 was *THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD* and a Holy Day of Obligation. The Canon Law of our Byzantine Catholic Church states: *"The Christian faithful are bound by the obligation to participate on Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation) at the Divine Liturgy ...."* (Canon 881#1); and *"are recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on these days ..."* (Canon 881 #3); *"and should abstain from those labors or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God ...."* (Canon 881 #4). **Neglectful fulfillment of this precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.**



**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH** — A continued initiative in the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh has been established. Beginning this Fall, a Campus Ministry program is established at the heart of the two largest universities in Pittsburgh (Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh) and extending out to all of the colleges in the region. It is our hope to develop a lasting outreach to Byzantine Catholic students, faculty, and staff; providing them not only with access to the Sacraments but also the opportunity to be exposed to the full richness and beauty of a distinctively Eastern Catholic theological and spiritual tradition. To this end we will be offering Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feast days, frequent opportunities for confession, monthly educational programs, opportunity for spiritual direction and pastoral counseling, days of recollection, retreats, community outreach and social events. The home of campus ministry will be Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church on Fifth Avenue. Three Chaplains are entrusted with the work: Fr. David Abernethy (Director of Campus Ministry), Fr. Michael Kunitz (Administrator of Holy Spirit Parish), and Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec (Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish). David S. Abernethy Director, Byzantine Catholic Campus Ministry 4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Ways to contact: [byzatholic@gmail.com](mailto:byzatholic@gmail.com) Facebook: [@byzatholic](https://www.facebook.com/byzatholic) Instagram: [@byzatholic](https://www.instagram.com/byzatholic) GroupMe: <https://groupme.com/contact/105015905/cK3wG4xL> If you are attending any based college/university in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, please contact them and participate in this enriching program.

