

**Parish Offerings – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — August 20, 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 (\$2,141) YP (\$8) .....	\$2,149.00
Holy Days (\$256) YP (\$4) .....	260.00
Votive Candles .....	164.60
	\$2,573.60

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$600.65) YP (\$1) .....	\$601.65
Holy Days (\$40) YP (\$1) .....	41.00
Utilities (\$35) Special Donation (Repair for Ch Steps by Arlene Latta - \$25) ....	60.00
Votive Candles .....	39.50

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$742.15

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (37)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (59); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)

Ordination to Subdiaconate & Diaconate @ 3:00 p.m. (98)



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**August 27, 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  
331-9713  
Fax: (412) 331-6688  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
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North Side Parishioner

**Alan Valeriano**

**(412) 638-3417**

**PA #172378**

**Please patronize those who bring you this weekly Church report without an added expense to the Church. New sponsors are welcome, please contact Church 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!**



# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

August 27, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 35



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### 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

Mon, Aug 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Darko S. Gataric Ivan Opat & Family

### Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist, John — Simple Holy Day



Traditional Day of Strict Abstinence (no meat or dairy) — RECOMMENDED  
SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (No Meat) & no serving or eating on a platter or dish

**Tue, Aug 29** 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary Sahayda Dgr: + Marlene "Mimi" Smith

#### Final Day of the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Wed, Aug 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia Firko + Mary Korim Son & Nephew: Fr. Firko  
Thrs, Aug 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + David P. Bubalo Judy & Maury Confer

#### Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical Year — The Year of the Indiction

First Friday of the Month — Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

Fri, Sept 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George E. Kraly Zula Family  
(64<sup>th</sup> ann. of passing 9/2)

#### First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sat, Sept 2 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Timothy A. Kacsur (birthday 9/3) Brother: David & Family

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

#### Mount St. Macrina Pilgrimage — Labor Day Weekend

**SUN, Sept 3** 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Andrew Petrilla (birthday) Jos. Cehula  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Dolores + Tony Nee Alice Slagle

## 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 27 – Ilona Goyda; Aug 29 – William Babin, Judith Bercik; Aug 31 – David Burns; Sept 1 – Joseph Babin; Sept 2 – Eugene Purcell, Andrew Purcell.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliunas, 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, Betty Warhola, 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 Cifrutak. Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.  
**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.

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

Q. What if I don't feel like going to the Divine Liturgy? A. Catholic Apologist, Michelle Arnold: If going to the Divine Liturgy is about getting together once a week with a group of people to sing, say some prayers, and have coffee and doughnuts after, it would be understandable for someone to feel like he might have better ways to spend his Sunday mornings. But that isn't why Catholics go to the Divine Liturgy. **We go because the Divine Liturgy is the re-presentation in time and space of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. Christ's passion, death, and resurrection are made present on the altar during the Divine Liturgy.** By attending, congregants are gathering around their Lord's Cross, much in the same way some of his disciples chose to do on that first Great Friday (the rest broke and ran). When we are present at the Divine Liturgy, we are standing vigil with the Lord in his agony, worshipping him, and receiving him sacramentally in Communion. If Christians do not "feel like" being present for that, can they possibly consider themselves disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ?

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**August 27 — Sept. 2, 2023**

(MR): In memory of Joe Babin

offered by Wife: + Gerry

(NS): In memory of Michael Seman, Sr.

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Dgr: Velma

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2023





# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**LAT WEEK'S ORDINATION TO MINOR & MAJOR ORDERS** — The newly ordained Deacon Nathaniel Tapsak and his wife Natalia extend their gratitude to all who attended the special Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of Ordination last Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. There were 98 in attendance. This special historical event of our Parish celebrates God's Glory in which our Heavenly Patron, God the Holy Spirit, came to mark this young man with a special character empowering him to assist the Hierarchy and Priests at the Holy Altar. Congratulations to Nate as he returns to the seminary for his final year of spiritual formation. He will be awaiting the call to the Holy Priesthood from the Archbishop upon the completion of his studies. To Deacon Nathaniel and his wife, Natalia, may God grant you many years in health and happiness. Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



## North Side

**FRONT STEPS OF THE CHURCH RECEIVING A TEMPORARY REPAIR** — The crumbling concrete steps leading into the Church received a temporary repair. We do have the funds allocating a permanent fix, so this will have to do for the time being. More information will be provided in an upcoming edition of the S.O.T.

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### LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR CHURCH CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

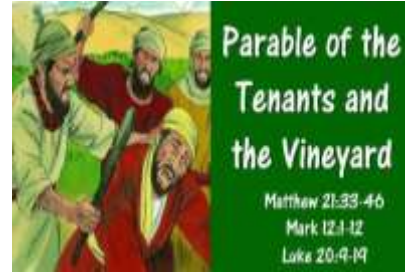
— Soon the 2024 Church envelopes will be arriving here at the office. We are beginning to make the switch from this year to the next. If you have not used envelopes within the past two years, your name is probably not in the church's format. Church envelopes are a necessary part of the administrative 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.



# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## St. Basil the Great Commentary and Explanation of the Vineyard – Mt. 21:33-42

You need only to look at the vine to be reminded of your own nature, that is, if you observe it intelligently. No doubt you remember the image used by the Lord in which he says that he is the vine and the Father the vinedresser. **Each of us who have been grafted onto the Church by faith he calls branches, and he urges us to bear much fruit so as not to be rejected as useless and thrown onto the fire.** Throughout the Scriptures the Lord continually likens human souls to vines. He says for instance: My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; and



again: I planted a vineyard and put a hedge round it. Clearly it is human souls that he calls his vineyard, and the hedge he has put round them is the security of his commandments and the protection of the angels; for the angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear him. Moreover, by establishing in the Church apostles in the first place, prophets in the second, and teachers in the third, he has surrounded us as though by a firmly planted palisade. In addition, the Lord has raised our thoughts to heaven by the examples of saints of past ages. He has kept them from sinking to the earth where they would deserve to be trampled on, and he wills that the bonds of love, like the tendrils of a vine, should attach us to our neighbors and make us rest on them, so that always climbing upward like vines growing on trees, we may reach the loftiest heights. **He also requires that we allow ourselves to be weeded. To be spiritually weeded means to have renounced the worldly ambitions that burdened our hearts.** Anyone who has renounced the love of material things and attachment to possessions, or who has come to regard as despicable and deserving of contempt the poor, wretched glory of this world, is like a weeded vine. Freed from the profitless burden of earthly aspirations, that person can breathe again. Finally, following out the implications of the comparison, we must not run to wood, or, in other words, show off or seek the praise of outsiders. Instead, we must bear fruit by reserving the display of our good works for the true vinedresser.

## The Basic Understanding of this Parable

As stated in this passage, the religious leaders realize that Jesus is talking about them. They are the wicked tenants. Therefore, these leaders become very angry and want to arrest Jesus, but they cannot because they are afraid of the large crowd who would get upset if they did. As for the rest of the parable, the vineyard represents Israel. The owner represents God the Father. The servants sent by the owner represent the prophets that God has sent in the past, many of whom have been mistreated and even killed by Israel and its leaders. The son represents Jesus. When Jesus tells this parable, his main purpose is to tell the religious leaders what the reality of the situation is: God has placed them over Israel, but they (including past leaders) have been evil by mistreating his prophets. However, Jesus is also making a statement about himself in relation to God, since he is the son of the owner of the vineyard. He is even predicting his death at the hands of the religious leaders.

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 ..... 89<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 ..... Archdiocesan Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm  
September 14 ..... Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross (Solemn Holy Day)  
Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes prior for the Solemn Enthronement of the Holy Cross — (MR) 8:45 a.m.; (NS) 5:45 p.m.  
September 17 ..... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year  
October 1 ..... Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.  
**Save the date: Deanery Pasta Dinner – Oct. 15 @ 3:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.**

## Simple Holy Day This Week

### Beheading of St. John the Baptist — August 29

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time when John the Baptist was



preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip, danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though it be half of his kingdom. Being persuaded by her mother, Salome asked

for the head of John the Baptist. Herod gave the order and **John was beheaded in prison and his head brought to him on a platter**. John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evil doers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Passover but its celebration on *August 29 was established because*, on that day, a church which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed. **Divine Liturgies Wednesday, Aug. 29 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 7:00 p.m. In the spirit of this feast try to avoid eating from a dish or platter, but use a humble paper plate. The founders and benefactors of our Churches ate from the kitchen pots and pans on this day in St. John's honor! Some did not cut anything that resembled a head (eg. cabbage, lettuce, even a tomato) with a knife!**

# General Announcements

**ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR COMMENCES THIS WEEK** — Our Church marks the commencement of a brand New Year **Friday, Sept. 1**. It is referred to as **THE YEAR OF INDICTION**. In the Byzantine Empire 312 AD., the civil year began on Sept. 1. An "indiction" was a reoccurring cycle of 15 years and used for determining periods of time. *It is believed that Jesus began his public Ministry on this day*. Thus, the Byzantine Catholic Church continues to commemorate a new liturgical year at this time! **Let us make a resolution to attend ALL SUNDAYS & HOLY DAYS in this NEW (CHURCH) YEAR!**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MOUNT ST. MACRINA PILGRIMAGE** — It is our prayer that you can join **the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage in honor of the Theotokos under her precious title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from September 1 through the 4**. If you have never attended a pilgrimage before, you are encouraged to make this one which contains a myriad of graces. If you are experiencing any difficulties or problems, or just wish to thank God through Mary for an answered prayer, take them to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and lay them at her feet.



**NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** — Our *Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.)* Classes will be commencing enrollment in the next few weeks. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration which follows all Divine Liturgies beginning next week. All classes begin on **Catechetical Sunday, September 17, 2023** following the Sunday morning (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Contact Coordinator, Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.



**AN ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS** — If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), but are homebound, our pastor is more than willing to make a sacramental visitation to your residence. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact him. **Please phone the parish office (412) 771-3324** and set a time when Father may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS AND PRAYER ARE VITALLY ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul! He is looking forward hearing from you!



**THE DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY RECORD BOOK FOR 2024** — The Record Book has arrived! Intentions for 2024 will commence to be taken on **Sunday, September 10, 2023**. Please do not submit your requests earlier than this commencement date. The book has to be setup prior to recording both Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp intentions. Thank you for your patience.

