

Parish Offerings – 6th Sunday after Pentecost — July 9, 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 (\$1,461) YP (\$4)	\$1,465.00
Holy Days	30.00
Votive Candles	143.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,638.00

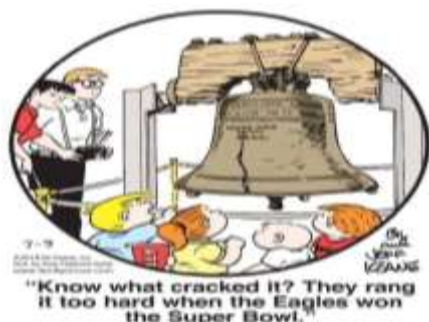
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$491.25) YP (\$1)	\$492.25
Improvement	20.00
Votive Candles	71.50
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Church Attendance Last Week \$583.75

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (59); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)



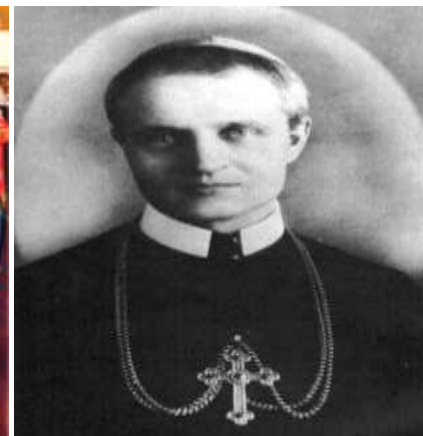
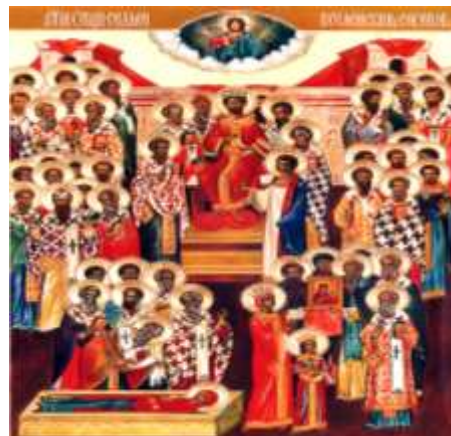
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Fathers of the First 6 Councils — July 16, 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 – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

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

Liturgical Services LIVE: www.Youtube.com then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
...ll Serving Yours Since 1953

Free will doesn't mean doing whatever you want. It means having the freedom to do what is right.

DESIGNS BY NANCY
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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.

GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085

WITRALL HANDYMAN SERVICES
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!

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!

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).

July 16, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 29



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Fathers of the first Six Ecumenical Councils

SUN, Jul 16 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak, Jr. (birthday 7/19) Wife: Jane

Feast of the Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gojdich, O.S.B.M.

Mon, Jul 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention for a Successful Surgical Procedure & Healing George & Michelle

Archieparchial Altar Servers Faith & Fun Day — Archbishop Skurla is the main celebrant

Tue, Jul 18 *** 11:00 a.m. (MR) + Nicholas Dobroski Anonymous

Wed, Jul 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Oslick (28th ann of passing) John & MaryEllen Oslick

Feast of the Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah the Tishbite

Blessing of Vehicles following Divine Liturgies — Simple Holy Day

Thrs, Jul 20 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Swayka MaryEllen & John Oslick
(27th ann.of passing 7/16)
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

Fri, Jul 21  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Sosak MaryEllen & John Oslick
(19th ann of passing 7/20)

Sat, Jul 22 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Helen P. Petak (9th ann of passing 7/25) Dgtr: Marilyn Furman & Family

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Annual Church Picnic — Cleaver Park, Robinson

SUN, Jul 23 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh Alex Bilak
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Joseph R. Shamonsky 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

Jul 21 – Nancy Lecci, Andrea Usouski, Lorraine (Bunny) Zavidny, ROBERT SPONTAK.

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, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, 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.
VICTORIA MANOR PERSONAL CARE HOME (100 Rose Ct., Oakdale, PA 15071): Dan Pikras.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it necessary to confess how many times one has sinned? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** To the best of your ability, you should confess how many times you committed each grave sin. The *Code of Canon Law* is clear on this point: A member of the Christian faithful is obliged to confess in kind and number all grave sins committed after baptism and not yet remitted directly through the keys of the Church nor acknowledged in individual confession, of which the person has knowledge after diligent examination of conscience. If you do not know an exact number, you can give a best estimate or provide an approximation (e.g., "several times"). If you forget to do this or later remember additional occurrences of grave sins, your sins are still forgiven, but you should remember to acknowledge those sins at your next confession.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

July 16 – July 22, 2023

(MR): In memory of Debra Ann Charochak

offered by Mike, Leyte & Mike Tomczak

(NS): In memory of Michael Sotak (birthday 7/19)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Wife: Jane

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2023



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE — Over the past few weeks, the Church Boiler Room received a through cleaning along with wall painting and the filling of an old slop sink hole. Our Church is grateful to Julia Ann & George F. Mosko for donating their time in restoring areas that most do not see. They also replaced the kitchen sink that had been leaking, and applied new vinyl wall base border. They also commenced cleaning of the side vestibule mini chandeliers. Many thanks Julia & George for the sacrificial work that you accomplish for our Church!



SCHEDULE OF ALTAR SERVER FAITH & FUN DAY THIS WEEK — The 2023 Faith & Fun Day for Archdiocesan Altar Servers will be on **Tuesday, July 18th**. The day will begin at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, McKees Rocks, PA and end after the Pirates game. The schedule for the day is:



11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks with Archbishop Skurla, and concelebrating clergy.

12:15 p.m. depart by bus to visit the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

1:30 p.m. depart for Topgolf (Bridgeville) for lunch and game play; **5:00 p.m.** depart to PNC Park for the Pirates game vs. Cleveland.

Following the game, depart back to Holy Ghost Church for parental pick-up. Parental Consent Form must be completed for each altar server attending; Adult (Parent) sign-up (*must have all safe environment clearances on file at chancery*). Thank you to all our Altar Servers!

North Side

No Particular Announcements this Week

SUMMER IS NOT A TIME TO VACATION FROM WORSHIPPING GOD — Now that Summer is here many are vacationing. Please remember to keep the worship of God



in your plans. The first Precept of the Church is to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. *This does not exclude vacation time!* The place to worship God is at the Divine Liturgy. He is most kind and merciful, sustaining and gifting us in all that we have and need. *A voluntarily absence without serious reason makes one guilty of mortal sin,*

and unable to approach Holy Communion until the sinful neglect is confessed in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. If you know that where you are traveling that there is no Catholic Church, please inform the Pastor so that a dispensation may be considered. Also, *you can download an app on your cell phone called "Mass Times."*

THE 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Fathers of the First 6 Ecumenical Councils — (John 17: 1-13)
Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils *Catholic*



Encyclopedia -- **HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ECUMENICAL COUNCILS** --- The present article deals chiefly with the theological and canonical questions concerning councils which are Ecumenical in the strict sense above defined. Special articles give the history of each important synod under the head of the city or see where it was held. In order, however, to supply the reader with a basis of fact for the discussion of principles of six of the twenty-one Ecumenical councils with a brief statement of the purpose of each.

First Ecumenical Council: Nicea I (325) – The Council of Nicea lasted two months and twelve days. Three hundred and eighteen bishops were present. Hosius, Bishop of Cordova, assisted as legate of Pope Sylvester I. The

Emperor Constantine was also present. To this council we owe The Creed of Nicea, defining against Arius the true Divinity of the Son of God, and the fixing of the date for keeping Easter. **Second Ecumenical Council: Constantinople I (381)** – The First General Council of Constantinople, under Pope Damascus and the Emperor Theodosius I, was attended by 150 bishops. It was directed against the followers of Macedonia's, who impugned the Divinity of the Holy Ghost. To the above-mentioned Nicene Creed it added the clauses referring to the Holy Ghost and all that follows to the end.

Third Ecumenical Council: Ephesus (431) — The Council of Ephesus, of more than 200 bishops, presided over by St. Cyril of Alexandria representing Pope Celestine I, defined the true personal unity of Christ, declared Mary the Mother of God (*Theotokos*) against Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople, and renewed the condemnation of Pelagius.

Fourth Ecumenical Council: Chalcedon (451) — The Council of Chalcedon -- 150 bishops under Pope Leo the Great and the Emperor Marcian -- defined the two natures (Divine and human) in Christ against Eutyches, who was excommunicated.

Fifth Ecumenical Council: Constantinople II (553) — The Second General Council of Constantinople, of 165 bishops under Pope Vigilius and Emperor Justinian I, condemned the errors of Origen and certain writings (The Three Chapters) of Theodoret, of Theodore, Bishop of Mopsuestia and of Ibas, Bishop of Edessa; it further confirmed the first four general councils, especially that of Chalcedon whose authority was contested by some heretics.

Sixth Ecumenical Council: Constantinople III (680-681) — The Third General Council of Constantinople, under Pope Agatho and the Emperor Constantine Pogonatus, was attended by the Patriarchs of Constantinople and of Antioch, 174 bishops, and the emperor. It put an end to Monothelism by defining two wills in Christ, the Divine and the human, as two distinct principles of operation. It anathematized Sergius, Pyrrhus, Paul, Macarius, and all their followers.

"The preaching of the Apostles and the teachings of the Fathers have confirmed the one faith of the Church, which she wears as a garment of truth, woven from the theology on high, as she faithfully imparts and glorifies the great mystery of devotion" (Kondakion of the Feast).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 18 Archdiocesan Altar Faith & Fun Day followed by a Pittsburgh Pirate Ball Game.
July 20 Simple Holy Day: Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles.
(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
July 23 Annual Church Picnic at Cleaver Park, Robinson from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Signup.
July 27 GCU Byzantine Catholic Family Day, Kennywood Park. Tickets at gcuusa.com
August 1-14 Commencement of the Savior's Fast.
August 5 Anticipated Sunday & Transfiguration DL w/ the blessing of fruits & grapes.
August 6 Sunday & Transfiguration DL w/ the blessing of fruits and grapes at both Parishes.
Save the Date — Archdiocesan Marriage Jubilarian Celebration (Sept. 10)

Saint of the Week

The Holy Prophet Elijah the Tishbite — July 20 Simple Holy Day — Faithful are encouraged to attend the Divine Liturgy



Of all the Old Testament prophets it was St. Elijah (Greek: Elias) the Tishbite who, in a special way, captured the imagination of our Byzantine Slav people in Eastern Europe. The prophet, whose name means "strength of the Lord" was a man aflame with the fire of the love of God and was uncompromising in his faithfulness to the one true God. He was a powerful and courageous figure who had been given power over the elements: rain, wind, fire, etc. St. Elijah lived during the reign of Ahab, the seventh king of Israel

(875-854 B.C.). The king had married Jezebel, the pagan daughter of the king of Tiro. She brought with her hundreds of pagan prophets (ritual priests) to Samaria and introduced the worship of the Phoenician deity, Melkart, also known under the general name of Baal. Apart from the sacrifices they offered as part of their priestly function, they observed a special ritual dance accompanied by musical instruments. Every spring they had a ceremony of fire to mark the awakening of their god who had slept through the winter. They enkindled a great fire from which the god was supposed to renew his strength. During this time, the priest-prophets of Baal danced and whirled faster and faster in a frenzy, even to wounding themselves with swords and spears on their arms and legs. Under the influence of Queen Jezebel, the true prophets of Israel were persecuted and the Israelites became divided in their loyalty between Baal and Yahweh. They thought they could worship both, the God of their fathers and the pagan god, Baal, whom the Queen favored. Elijah's strong and determined opposition to this divided loyalty earned for him the hatred of the queen. St. Elijah's loyalty to God and uncompromising faithfulness is a model for those who are straddling between loyalty to God and to the world.

General Announcements

FEAST OF BLESSED PAUL P. GOJDICH, OSBM — Monday, July 17 marks his Martyrdom Feast. He excelled in knowing, loving and serving God. While in prison he advanced in holiness, and was reportedly gifted with bilocation, levitation, and the stigmata of the Lord. He prayed for only two favors: (1) to pass peacefully to the Lord on his birthday, and (2) to have a priest near his side to anoint him with the Sacrament. Both requests were answered on July 17, 1960 just after 12 o'clock midnight. He was buried quickly in an uncommon grave with only a number to signify the placement of his mortal remains. He was beatified by the late Pope John Paul II on November 4, 2001. His relics were transferred to the Prerov Cathedral where they remain for veneration to this day. He was posthumously awarded with the prestigious decree "Righteous Among the Nations" by the Hebrew Community due to his role in saving thousands of Jewish people from extermination during World War II. Let us wholeheartedly resolve to pray daily for his immediate Canonization. The meaning of the O.S.B.M. is "The Order of St. Basil the Great. In Latin: **Ordo Sancti Basilii Magni**. Pray to God for a miracle through his intercession and advancement to Canonization.



HOLY DAY & BLESSING OF VEHICLES — This Thursday, July 20, is the **Feast of the Holy Prophet. Elijah the Tishbite**. It is an annual custom of our Byzantine Catholic Church to bless vehicles on this day. This beautiful memorial arose from the fact that near the end of his life the Lord sent a fiery chariot from heaven to take Elijah away. This happened in the presence of his disciple Elisha to whom was given double the power of his mentor to carry on the ministry. Since our vehicles are "as fast as the wind" as indicated in the prayer blessing, we pray that God will protect us from harm, and at the same time praise and thank God for this gift to be able to glorify Him by assisting us in the service of God and neighbor. Please come for the blessing following each Divine Liturgy on **July 20 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m. and (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.**



HOLY GHOST CHURCHES CONTINUE WITH ANNUAL COLLECTION TO FISHER HOUSE — Since this is no longer a GCU Fraternal Event, both of our Holy Ghost Churches will sponsor the program collecting items to help Pittsburgh's VA Fisher House. The *Pittsburgh Fisher House* is a 10-bedroom "home away from home" and provides a place for visiting families to stay, free of charge, while their loved ones receive inpatient medical care at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The *Pittsburgh Fisher House* is professionally furnished and features a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room with a library, and toys for children. They are requesting assistance in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Boxes are placed at the side vestibule and narthex areas of both parishes for the **collection that will extend to August 6**. For additional information, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.



CHURCHES PICNIC UPDATED INFORMATION — Thus far, we have app. 20 that have signed the posted list. Your presence is very much needed! The picnic is slated at the Robinson Township Cleaver Road Picnic Grove **Sunday, July 23, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** It is necessary that all that attendees must register on the signup sheet located in the (NS) Narthex and (MR) Side Vestibule. The Churches must know how many hot dogs, hamburger, pasta salad and soft drinks to order. This will be a picnic basket style event. You are to bring your own picnic basket. We are looking forward to this being an 'ol fashioned' event where we can relax and enjoy the day together. The pool will be opened at a discounted price for those who desire to swim. *The final day of registration is today.*

