

Parish Offerings – 14th Sunday after Pentecost — August 25, 2024

“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 (\$2,271) YP (\$6)	\$2,277.00
Holy Days.....	90.00
Votive Candles	103.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,470.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$623) YP (\$1)	\$624.00
Holy Day (\$25) Utilities (\$50)	75.00
Votive Candles	60.50
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Church Attendance Last Week \$759.50

Sat (MR), 4:p.m. (22)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)

Beheading of St. John the Baptist, Aug 29 — (MR) 9:00 am (9); (NS) 6:00 pm (7)

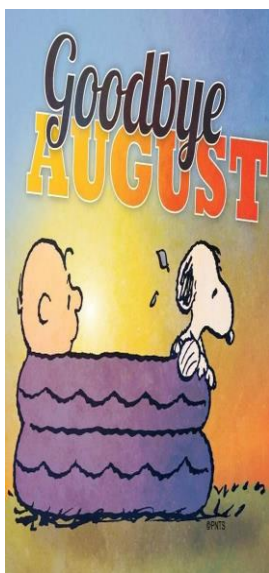


Valerian F. Szal

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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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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 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

90th anniversary of Uniontown Pilgrimage — Sept. 1, 2024



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

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko

Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter

The Reverend Father David A. Bosnich

Assistant Pastor (NS), Assigned to Chancery

The Reverend Deacon Michael E. 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

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.

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.

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 will.

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).

September 1, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number 35



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Mount St. Macrina Pilgrimage — Labor Day Weekend

SUN, Sept 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marlene Pfeiffer Mary Ann Smoley
(40th day of passing 8/7)

Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday — No Banks & Postal Service

Mon, Sept 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George E. Kraly (65th ann of passing) Zula Family
Tues, Sept 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joyce Buchko Patricia Zurawski
Wed, Sept 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna (birthday) Maria Odzga
Thrs, Sept 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Ann Charochak (birthday) Karen Stebbins

Miracle of the Angelic Commander, St. Michael at Colossae (Chonae) Asia Minor
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** (your choice): for the
return of traditional & God righteous values leading all to salvation.

Fri, Sept 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr. Michael Mazur
Sat, Sept 7 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parish

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Debra + Diane Charochak Mom: Florence

16th Sunday after Pentecost



Nativity of the Holy Theotokos

Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

WED, Sept 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Bishop John M. Bilock (30th ann. of passing)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. Valeriano & Kallop Families
(13th ann of passing 9/15)

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

Sept 1 — Joseph Babin; Sept 2 — Andrew Purcell, Eugene Purcell;
Sept 4 — Lynn Kacsur.

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

HOME: Margaret Belianas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Albert Kovach, Sr.; Bill Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, JOHN NEWPORT, Kurt Perschy, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.
THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrukak. Mildred Terrek.

TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Posnak
FORBES REGIONAL HOSPITAL (2570 Haymaker Rd., Monroeville, PA 15146): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What difference does it make what religion you are, as long as you live like Christ? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** If someone does everything Jesus calls him to do, then he will—among other things—believe in Jesus and join his Church. Christ set up *one* Church for his believers to join. In Matthew 16:18, he says to Peter "Upon this Rock I will build my Church," not "I will build my churches...." Worship and religious affiliation are part of what Jesus commanded his followers, and so what religion you belong to does matter.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 1 — Sept. 7, 2024

(MR): In memory of Rose A. Debranski (20th ann of passing 9/14)

offered by : Dgtr: Nancy

(NS): In memory of Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (13rd ann of passing 9/15)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2024

General Announcements

McKees Rocks & North Side

PARISH VOCATION ADVANCES TO THE DIACONATE — Most recently, an official announcement was made by the Chancery that Archbishop Skurla will be ordaining **Subdeacon Luke Iyengar to the Diaconate here at Holy Ghost Church on Sunday, September 22, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.** This is a tremendous honor for our parish! Following the Liturgical Celebration we will host a light luncheon in the gym. If you would like to join us, please sign the sheet at both churches.. Our Volunteer Committee needs to know how many will be attending. Please join us as we commemorate this auspicious occasion.

PRAISING AND THANKING GOD THROUGH OUR HOLY DAYS — As we marked the beginning of the new Church Year on September 1, we have the opportunity to renew the events of our salvation through all holy days. To praise and thank God for revealing His mercy to us with the promise of everlasting life, holy days remind us of each of these special salvific events. *Over the years, the attendance has been on the low side.* Show your love for God and His Church. The beauty of our Byzantine Catholic Church, emphasizes much solemnity by commemorating several salvific events in our holy days throughout the year other than the required Sundays.



GRATITUDE TO FLOWER DONOR AT THE HOLY THEOTOKOS ICON — During the month August, an anonymous donor graciously contributed flowers to our Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis on the Feast of the Dormition. May God richly bless you for this sacrificial gesture, and may the Holy Virgin always extend her vail of protection over you and your beloved! Symbolically, we can all donate "flowers of prayer" each time that we meditate and pray the Holy Rosary, Akathist or Moleben in her honor.

Miracle of the Archangel Michael — September 6

The Miracle of the Holy Chief Commander Archangel Michael at Colossae happened in Phrygia, not far from the city of Hieropolis, in a place called Cheretopos. There was a church named for the Archangel Michael, built over a miraculous spring. This church was built by a certain inhabitant of the city of Laodicia in gratitude to God for healing his mute daughter. The holy Chief Commander Michael appeared to this man in a dream and revealed to him that his daughter would receive the gift of speech after drinking from the water of the spring. The girl actually did receive healing and began to speak. After this miracle, the father and his daughter and all their family were baptized. In fervent gratitude, the father built the church in honor of the holy Chief Commander Michael. Not only did Christians begin to come to the spring for healing, but also pagans. In so doing, many of the pagans turned from their idols and were converted to the faith in Christ. At this church of the holy Chief Commander Michael, a certain pious man by the name of Archippus served for sixty years as church custodian. By his preaching and by the example of his saintly life he brought many pagans to faith in Christ. With the general malice of that time towards Christians, and especially against Archippus, the pagans thought to destroy the church in order to prevent people from coming to that holy place of healing, and at the same time kill Archippus. Toward this end they made a confluence of the Lykokaperos and Kufos Rivers and directed its combined flow against the church. St Archippus prayed fervently to the Chief Commander Michael to ward off the danger. Through his prayer the Archangel Michael appeared at the temple, and with a blow of his staff, opened a wide fissure in a rock and commanded the rushing torrents of water to flow into it. The temple remained unharmed. Seeing such an awesome miracle, the pagans fled in terror. Archippus and the Christians gathered in church glorified God and gave thanks to the holy Archangel Michael for the help. The place where the rivers plunged into the fissure received the name "Chonae", which means "plunging."



15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Love God, Love Neighbor in that Order

Gospel meditation: By the late Msgr. Eugene Chromoga (Mt. 22: 35-46)

A Scribe questioned Jesus: "Master, which is **the greatest commandment** in the Law?"



This subject was often debated in the rabbinic school. It was a real issue among the Jewish people. Jesus replied: "You must love the Lord your God with your whole heart and your whole soul, and your whole mind. This is the greatest and the chief commandment. The second is like it, you must love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments the whole law and the prophets depend." Jesus quoted the Book of Deuteronomy (6:5) for the first commandment. This verse is the first part of the "Shema," the basic creed of Judaism. Every Jewish service opens with this sentence. It is also the first text every Jewish child memorizes. It is contained in the "Phylacteries" the tiny leather boxes devout Jews wear on their foreheads and their wrists when they pray. This is intended to remind of this creed in prayer. The "Shema" is also placed in a little round box called the "Mesurah" and fixed to each door in every Jewish house. They touch this whenever they come in or out to remind them of God. **The second commandment** which Jesus quotes is from the Book of Leviticus (19:18). Man is made to the image and likeness of God. It is for this reason we are to love one another. If we take the love of God away, the love of neighbor becomes sentimentality. Jesus was the first to put these two commandments together. But the love of God comes first. This is the first and greatest commandment; we must love God with our total love, a love which rules over our emotions, a love which directs our thoughts and a love which controls all. It is a total commitment of self to God. Our love of neighbor is based on our love of God. It is only when we love God that people become lovable. Love of our fellowman is a sign of love for God.

A Short History of Labor Day

The first Labor Day was celebrated on **September 5, 1882**, in New York City, when 10,000 workers marched from city hall to Union Square. Those who participated took a day off without pay and voiced their demands. In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the official holiday, and the Central Labor Union, who organized the first Labor Day, encouraged organizations in other cities to celebrate the workingman's holiday on that specific date. The concept spread throughout the country and was celebrated in most major industrial cities. The first state law recognizing Labor Day was passed by Oregon in 1887. That same year, four more states, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, recognized Labor Day. **By 1894**, a total of 28 states have adopted the holiday, and in June Congress passed a federal act, making the first Monday in September a legal holiday. *President Grover Cleveland signed the bill* right after sending troops to quell a strike against the Pullman railroad company. Have a Happy and Safe Labor Day!



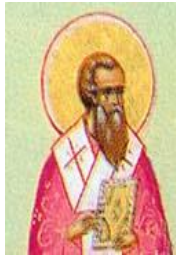
Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 1	Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
September 2	Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday. Morning Divine Liturgy (MR) 9:00 a.m.
September 8	Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos.
September 14-15	Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross (Sunday & Solemn Holy Day)
	Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes prior for the Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross.
	Sunday & Holy Cross Holy Day — Sat. (MR) 3:45 pm; Sun (MR) 8:45 a.m.; (NS) 10:50 a.m.
.....	Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year.
.....	Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 p.m.
October 1	Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
	(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week — September 4

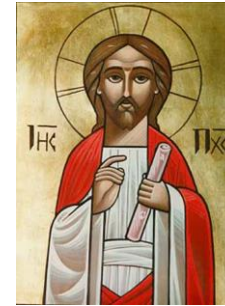
THE HOLY BISHOP-MARTYR BABYLAS OF ANTIOCH

The Bishop-Martyr Babylas and with him the three youths Urban, Prilidian, Epolonius and their mother Christodoula died as martyrs under the emperor Decius (249-251). During his stay in their city of Antioch, the emperor arranged for a large festival in honor of the pagan gods. At the same time, Babylas, the holy and God-fearing Bishop of Antioch, was serving the Divine Liturgy in church. He prayed for his flock and taught them to endure all tribulations for Christ with courage. The idolater Decius, curious to witness the Divine Mysteries, decided to enter the church. News of this reached the bishop, so he went out to meet Decius and blocked the path to the church, for he was unwilling to permit impiety in the temple of God. When the emperor approached the church doors, St Babylas refused to let him enter, so the emperor had to abandon his intention. He wanted to take revenge on the saint right away, but when he saw the large throng of Christians, he feared they might riot. The next day the angry emperor ordered that the church be set on fire, and for Bishop Babylas to be brought before him. When asked why he had insulted the imperial dignity by not allowing the emperor to enter the church, the holy bishop answered, "Anyone who would rise up against God and want to desecrate His sanctuary, is not worthy of respect, but has become the enemy of the Lord." Decius declared that the holy bishop must worship the idols in order to make up for his lack of respect for the emperor, or else face execution. After convincing himself that the martyr would remain steadfast in his faith, he commanded the military commander Victorinus to put him in heavy chains and lead him through the city in disgrace. The holy martyr replied, "**Emperor, these chains are as venerable for me as your imperial crown is for you. For me, suffering for Christ is as desirable as the imperial power is for you. Death for the Immortal King is as precious to me as your life is to you.**" At the trial with Bishop Babylas were three young brothers, who did not forsake him even in this most difficult moment. Seeing them, the emperor asked, "Who are these children?" "These are my spiritual children," the saint replied, "and I have raised them in piety, I have given them an education, cultivated them with guidance, and here before you in a small body are these great young men and perfect Christians. Test them and see." The emperor tried in all sorts of ways to entice the youths and their mother Christodoula to renounce Christ, but in vain. Then, in a rage, he ordered each of them to be whipped with a number of blows corresponding to their age. The first received twelve blows, the second, ten, and the third, seven. Dismissing the mother and children, the torturer again summoned the bishop, telling him that the children had renounced Christ. He did not believe the lie, however. Then he commanded all the martyrs be tied to a tree and burned with fire. Seeing the stoic bravery of the saints, the emperor finally condemned them to be beheaded with the sword. peror finally condemned them to be beheaded with the sword.



General Announcements

ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR THIS WEEK — Our Church is marking the commencement of a brand New Year **on Sunday, 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! **HAPPY NEW (CHURCH) YEAR!**



90TH ANNUAL UNIONTOWN PILGRIMAGE — Labor Day weekend This has always been a time to make an Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount Saint Macrina. It is there that we present our petitions before Our Blessed Mother for our needs and supplicate her assistance. We all have needs and something to be thankful for. Make the sacrifice and attend the Otpust (Pilgrimage) this year on Saturday, August 31st and September 1st. See the flyer in the narthex of the church!



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 15, 2024** following the Sunday morning (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program!



Contact the Church Office for further information.

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!



**Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Pray to God for us!**