

**Parish Offerings – 27th Sunday after Pentecost — Dec. 3, 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 (\$6,436) YP (\$11) .....	\$6,447.00
Holy Days (\$190) Thanksgiving (\$25) .....	215.00
Christmas (\$525) Christmas Décor (\$441) .....	966.00
Votive Candles .....	192.00
	<hr/>
	\$7,820.00

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$573.75) YP (\$1) .....	\$574.75
Holy Days (\$50) YP (\$5) .....	55.00
Christmas Decor (\$65) Improvements (\$75) .....	135.00
Votive Candles (\$96.50) Bakeless Bake Sale (\$1,400) .....	1496.50

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$2,261.25

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

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (82); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)

St. Nicholas — Wed., Dec 6 (MR) 9:00 am (12); (NS) 6:00 pm (15)

Immaculate Conception — Fri, Dec 8 (MR) 9:00 am (8); NS 6:00 pm (n/a)



IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM.



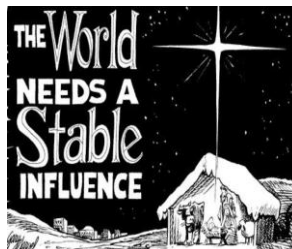
Right, we've picked up the gold and the myrrh...what on earth is THAT?!



**Valerian F. Szal**

238 Helen St.,  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
Michael P. Ferrell,  
Supervisor, CFSP

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

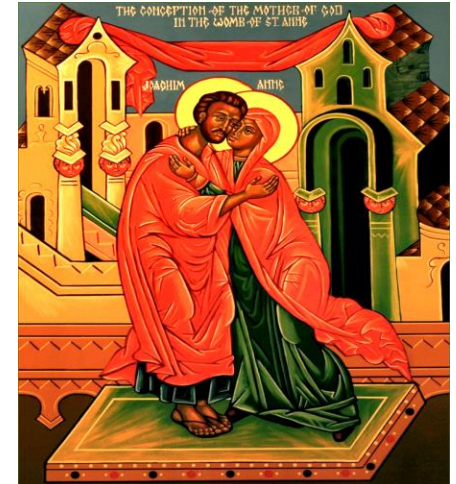
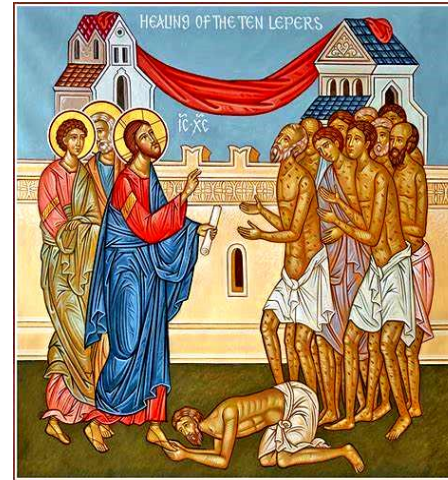
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**4th Sunday of Phillipian Fast — Dec. 10, 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.

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](http://Rusyn.fm) at 3:30 pm. Archive: [c-rsmedia.org](http://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).

December 10, 2023 Seasonal Greeting: Volume XIII Number 50



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

## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 10 (26) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Nicholas Senchyshyn (birthday 12/16) Dgr: Joan

Mon, Dec 11 (27) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia Swayka MaryEllen & John Oslick  
(22<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing)

#### Commemoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe — Our Lady of the Americas

Tue, Dec 12 (28) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Beverly Harsh Bilak & Tomchak Families

**RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**  
for the intention of the return of our beloved back to God and His Church

Wed, Dec 13 (29) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Kundrat, Jr. Theresa Kundrat  
(38<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

Thrs, Dec 14 (30) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Karen Perrault



**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**  
for the Dual intention for the return of our beloved back to God and His Church

Fri, Dec 15 (31) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Florence Kraly Zula Family  
(14<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 12/16)

Sat, Dec 16 (32) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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#### Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Old Testament Forefathers

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy Son: Kurt  
(21<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 12/16)

### Sunday of the Old Testament Forefathers

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 17 (33) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Cantor John Fejka Dgr: Susie  
(15<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 12/16)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Alice H. Smoley Dgr: Mary Ann  
(21<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 12/23)

3:00 p.m. (MR) Guest Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation

# 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

Dec 11 – Thomas Rubish; Dec 12 – Florence Charochak; Dec 14 – Steven Puluka, Roberta Rubish; Dec 15 – LARISA PFEUFFER.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuнас, 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.** I am dating a Calvinist. He has been trying to understand my faith, and I struggle sometimes with the answers. He asked me where in the Bible do we get the belief in the Immaculate Conception? And if God did that for Mary, why wouldn't he do it for David, Abraham, or Moses? And why did Mary need to be immaculately conceived?

**A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** It wasn't a matter of what God the Father did for Mary, but what he did for Jesus. What so many people don't understand is that **the Immaculate Conception of Mary is all about Jesus.** It was because he was to take on his human nature in her womb that God deigned her to be free of all sin and therefore "full of grace" (Lk 1:28). It would be unthinkable, given the revelation that we have in Scripture and Tradition, for him to be conceived in anything but a holy place. David, Abraham, and Moses weren't called to give birth to Jesus.



## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**December 10 – December 16, 2023**

(MR): **In memory of John Fejka** (15<sup>th</sup> ann of passing (12/16)

offered by Dgr: Susie

(NS): **In memory of Nicholas Senchyshyn** (birthday 12/16)

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Dgr: Joan

(NS) AVAILABLE 2024



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**PIROHI PROJECT ENDS THIS WEEK** — Here is the remaining Friday sale date: Dec 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 are welcomed. We could still use additional help, especially pinchers on this last week of sales.

**YOUTH GROUP TAKING CANDY ORDERS THE VIRTUAL WAY** — 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 [sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://sarriscandiesfundraising.com); 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 wish.**



## North Side (no announcements)

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**GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO DECORATED THE CHURCHES** — A special thank you is extended to all who came to decorate the NS & MR Churches most recently. We are always in need of volunteers especially in decorating the Church for this special time of the year. Remember that all of us reap its benefits. The Church looks beautiful! We now await the Christmas flowers. We could not have done it without you!

**SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD TO OUR RETIRED AND ILL PRIESTS** — Although you may not know them, they will surely appreciate a remembrance: (1) Former (NS) pastor **Monsignor Peter Tay**, 1200 San Pedro, Pittsburgh, PA 15212; and (3) Former pastor, (MR) **Monsignor Russell A. Duker**, Macrina Manor, 520 W. Main St., Uniontown PA 15401. Let them know that you are from Holy Ghost Church.

**ST. NICHOLAS VISITS BOTH PARISHES** — Following last weekend's Divine Liturgies, Holy Father Nicholas traveled to both of our Holy Ghost Parishes to distribute coins. Following the McKees Rocks Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas enjoyed the program that the Religious Education Students displayed of his life. We thank our ECF Coordinator, Subdeacon Luke Iyengar and teachers for encouraging the students to display this presentation. May St. Nicholas' generous and Christ-like spirit be imitated by us as we prepare for the celebration of the Holy Nativity of our Lord Jesus. O Kto Kto, Nikolaja lubit!



Holy Nativity of our Lord Jesus. O Kto Kto, Nikolaja lubit!

# Meditation on Today's Gospel

## Showing Gratitude for healing the leprosy of Sin!

Like 17:12-19

Luke observes that the one grateful leper "was a Samaritan" (v.16). Why are no observant Jews – the chosen people of God, the people of the covenant – among the grateful? No, the grateful leper is the one who is doubly outcast. He is both a leper and a Samaritan. This "Untouchable" is the one who stops to praise God in Jesus' healing. Luke has given us a picture of another "good Samaritan" (cf. 10:25-27). The story foreshadows the coming of the kingdom of God to the Gentiles (cf. Also "this foreigner" in v.18), a major theme throughout both Luke and Acts (e.g., 24-47 and Acts 1:8). In the cleansing of these lepers God was acting through Jesus, and so God must be thanked through Jesus. As a form of prayer, Christian gratitude must be offered through Jesus Christ. The salvation of the grateful leper represents more than physical healing. The lepers' salvation reflects his awareness through faith of God's gracious presence. As Christians we are called to follow the example of this grateful leper and let the grace of gratitude transform our daily lives.



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## Pope Francis Speaks

### A Flashback of Pope Francis' General Audience at St. Peter Square on the Ten Commandments

Dear Brothers and Sisters, In this, our final catechesis on the Ten Commandments, we reflect on how, in the light of Christ, the Decalogue should be seen not as a series of rules, but rather the guide to an authentic human life that comes to fulfillment in the love, joy and peace born of obedience to the Father's will. Our Lord came not to abolish the Law but to fulfil it. **The Holy Spirit, by enabling us to live a new life in Christ, takes away our hearts of flesh and opens them to the holy desire to abandon sin and to be conformed to Jesus' own heart, his love and his desires. The Ten Commandments invite us first to enter into a faithful and loving relationship with God our Father, to reject every false idol that enslaves us, and to find our authentic rest in the freedom of Christ and the Holy Spirit.** They then teach us how to live redeemed lives, marked by fidelity, integrity and honesty towards our neighbor. The commandments show us the face of Christ and open the door to the new life of grace; by accepting God's offer of saving love, we find our true selves and the source of a joy that will never end.



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# Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 17 ..... Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.  
 .... Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 3:00 p.m.  
 December 19 ..... Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) (NS) @ 5:00 p.m.  
 December 22 ..... (MR) 8:00 am Royal Hours); (MR) 1:00 pm DL of St. John Chrysostom.

## Regular Weekend Schedule & Sunday, Christmas Eve

December 23 Saturday @ 4:00 p.m. December 24 Sunday (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 a.m.

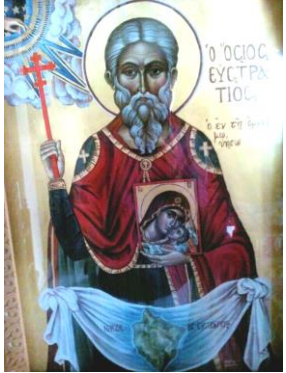
December 24 .... (MR) Great Compline @ 8:00 p.m. followed by Christmas Carols; 9:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great of Christmas Day. — December 25 .... (MR) Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:00 a.m. of Christmas Day; (NS) Christmas Day Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11:00 a.m.

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.  
 January 1 ..... New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 am.

# Saint of the Week — December 13

## The Holy Martyr Eustratius at Sebaste & His Companions

The Holy Martyr Eustratius at Sebaste & His Companions The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes (the Five Companions) suffered for Christ under the emperor Diocletian (284-305) at Sebaste, in Armenia. Among the first Christians imprisoned and undergoing torture at that time was Saint Auxentius, a presbyter of the Arabian Church. One of those who witnessed the steadfastness of the Christians was the noble military commander Saint Eustratius, the city prefect of Satalios, and archivist of the province. He was secretly a Christian, and when he openly confessed his faith, he was subjected to torture. They beat him, and put iron sandals studded with sharp nails on his feet, then forced him to march to the city of Arabrak. Witnessing the arrival of Saint Eustratius in Arabrak, One of the common people, Saint Mardarius, confessed that he was also a Christian like Saint Eustratius. He was arrested and cast into prison. Holes were drilled in his ankles, and ropes were passed them. He was suspended upside down, then heated nails were hammered into his body. He died a short time later. To him is attributed the prayer “O Master Lord God, Father Almighty ...” (which is read at the end of the Third Hour). As for Saint Eugene, they ripped out his tongue, they cut off his hands and feet, and then they beheaded him with a sword. Saint Auxentius was also arrested and beheaded. The young soldier Saint Orestes confessed himself a Christian and stood trial for this “crime.” He was sentenced to be stretched out upon a red-hot iron bed, and became frightened when he approached it. Encouraged by Saint Eustratius, he made the Sign of the Cross and got onto the heated bed, where he surrendered his soul to God. Saint Eustratius was sentenced to be burned alive on December 13. As he was being led to his death, he prayed aloud (“I magnify Thee exceedingly, O Lord, for You have regarded my lowliness...”)



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**Come O Jesus Our Savior, Redeem and Save Us!**

# General Announcements

**TODAY'S THE 4TH SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST** — We continue our journey into this minor penitential period following Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem by preparing ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. It is through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings, frequent confession of sins, works of virtue and additional participation in Divine Liturgies, we can accomplish this end. 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 for the return of our beloved back to Church. The color **PURPLE** is worn as a sign of **ROYALTY** of the One to be born in Bethlehem.



**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Schedule** — Dec.10 - Tapsak baby celebration; Dec. 17 - Theology of the Church Building; could be advertised to non-parishioners as "church tour"

**2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX** — Your 2024 Contribution Envelopes are ready for pickup today. **Please look for your name and not your current number.** If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office. **Please do not use your 2024 until January! As mentioned, your new box of envelopes may not have the same number.** If you have not contributed in two years, you will have to call the church office to be reinstated. This helps us to keep costs down. Again, we wish to thank and ask God's blessings on the **Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home and Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home** for sponsoring our new year calendars.



**CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER** — The Church cannot operate very well if it weren't for volunteers! To show appreciation for all who volunteered in some aspect of parish life throughout 2023, a **Parish Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township** will be on **Thursday, December 28, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.** This includes all Altar Servers, Ushers, Cantors, Readers, Office Personnel, Collection Counters, Church & Rectory Cleaners and Decorators, Altar Cover changers, Catechists, Radio Ministry, etc. This Dinner also includes all Pirohi Workers who will not be able to attend their luncheon buffet. A list is now located in the (MR) vestibule, and (NS) Narthex of the Church. *Final day for signing Sunday, December 24.*



**THE PITTSBURGH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESEAL CHOIR (PBCAC)** invites faithful, friends and family to experience the joy and splendor of the Nativity season **on Sunday December 17** as they present 'Neath the Star of Bethlehem: Hymns and Songs of the Nativity'. The hour-long choral program will begin at 2:00 pm at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall, Pa. Admission is free, and there is also plenty of free, level parking.

