

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday after Pentecost — June 25, 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 (\$1,838) YP (\$9)	\$1,847.00
All Saints (\$35) Holy Days (\$140)	175.00
Peter’s Pence	378.00
Votive Candles	154.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,561.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$737.89) YP (\$1)	\$738.89
Holy Days	50.00
Utilities (\$75) Peter’s Pence (\$25)	100.00
Votive Candles	68.60
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Church Attendance Last Week \$957.49

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (60); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (37)

Nativity of St. John the Baptist — (NS) 6:00 pm (8); (MR) 9:00 am (15)

SS. Peter & Paul — Tue. (MR) 7:00 pm (5) & Wed. (MR) 9:00 am (25); (NS) 6:00 pm (28)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Independence Weekend — July 2, 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

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,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



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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

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 2, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 27

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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Annual Independence Weekend — 4th of July

SUN, Jul 2	9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + Andrew Skalko	Anonymous.
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + Daniel J. Galida (birthday 7/5)	Sister: Kathy L. Mullen
Mon, Jul 3	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Mitro (birthday 7/2)	Family

247th National Independence Day

Tue, Jul 4	9:00 a.m. (MR) Health, Welfare & Forgiveness of Sins of our Country	
	<i>Venerable Athanasius of Mt. Athos</i>	
Wed, Jul 5	8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Sosnak	MaryEllen & John Oslick
	(52 nd ann of passing 7/4)	
Thrs, Jul 6	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Maletz	Bro: Bob & Martha

First Friday of the Month

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): in in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Fri, Jul 7	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Marie & Michael Mitro	Mitro Children
Sat, Jul 8	9:00 a.m. (NS) + Evelyn (Sosnak) Vento	Anonymous

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr. (10th ann of passing 7/12) Dgr: Leyte, Mike & Mike Tomchak

6th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Jul 9	9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS) Anna Marie Demianczyk (birthday 7/12)	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 6 – Stephen Kosko; Jul 7 – Tim Bedard, Anna Stebbins, MONSIGNOR PETER TAY.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, 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 Cifrutlak. Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.
LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.
BRIDGEVILLE REHAB & CARE CENTER (3590 Washington Pike, Bridgeville 15017): Dan Pikras.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I want to confess an obvious sin, but I do not feel remorse or regret for doing it. Do I need to be regretful to confess this sin or will it be forgiven even if I have no remorse? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** What is required is repentance, which is an act of the will. Remorse and regret are emotions, which you may or may not feel and do not have control over. Feelings of remorse and regret are not required, but they are helpful in keeping us from sinning again. One way to encourage such feelings is to develop a devotion to Christ's Passion. Meditation on the agonies Christ suffered to merit for us the grace we receive through confession helps in developing a horror for sin and a just remorse for the sins of one's life.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

July 2 – Jul 8, 2023

(MR): In memory of Jeanette & Alexander Zubritzky
offered by Children

(NS): In memory of Agnes Kacsur

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023 offered by Niece: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2023



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

INITIAL SCHEDULE OF ALTAR SERVER FAITH & FUN DAY — The 2023 Faith & Fun Day for Archdiocesan Altar Servers will be on **Tuesday, July 18, 2023**. The day will begin at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, McKees Rocks, PA and end after the Pirates game versus the Cleveland Guardians. The schedule for the day is: -- **Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks** — **Tour and visit of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary** — **Lunch & play at Topgolf (Bridgeville)** — **Pirates Game**.



Please inform Fr. Firko if you plan to attend. Forms are needed to be filled A.S.A.P. Preparations determine how many altar servers will be attending.

North Side

RETIRED FORMER PASTOR MARKS BIRTHDAY — One of the longest assigned pastors of our Holy Ghost Church was **Monsignor Peter P. Tay**. Besides his pastoral duties, he was also assigned with Archdiocesan duties at the Chancery. On July 7th, he will be observing a milestone 98th Birthday! I'm sure that he would appreciate receiving a birthday card from you. Thank him for dedicating his life as a priest. His address: 1200 San Pedro, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. May God grant to His servant, the Priest, Monsignor Tay, health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



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 INFORMATION — Following last week's discussion on the upcoming Churches Picnic on **July 23, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** it has been noted that all that attendees must sign the signup sheet located in the (NS) Narthex and (MR) Side Vestibule. The Churches must know how many hot dogs and hamburgers to order. This will be a picnic basket style event. We ask that you bring a dish to be shared by all. Please indicate what you will bringing. 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.



BOTH PARISHES ARE IN NEED OF A REPRESENTATIVE FOR MATCHING FUNDS — Despite the relinquishing of local districts and lodges, GCU is offering each parish the ability of matching funds of \$3,000.00. The Representative will act as Liaison between the Parish and GCU Headquarters. You would have to acquire permission from GCU for the event. Following the social activity, you must submit an article, along with two pictures which are to appear in an Upcoming GCU Magazine. If you are interested, please contact the pastor.

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Demons in today's Holy Gospel — Read Matthew 8:28-9:1

St. John Chrysostom says about this account, "Look at what the demons did when they were cast out of the men." They entered the swine, and caused the swine to run violently down to their own death. St. John says that is what the demons want to do to each one of us. They want to cause us to run violently down to our death. He says, "Do not be deceived. You have many foes. Just because you cannot see them with your natural eyes does not mean they are not there. Just because you are not aware of them every second of every day does not mean they do not follow you around, because they do. They huddle around you." What they seek is to enter you so that they may cause you to rush violently to your own death. This is the nature of our spiritual struggle. In 1 Peter 5:8, St. Peter says that our adversary the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." If we are going to fight the spiritual war, if we are going to live out this Christian life, then we must be aware every second of every day that the demons are there, and that they are looking for just one opening, just one second when we are not paying attention, one look that is not carefully guarded, one movement of anger, jealousy, or envy in our heart. The demons look for opportunities to destroy us. The demons never take a day off. But very often those thoughts are suggestions of the evil one. Satan and the demons are very skillful at suggesting thoughts to us and then leaving so quickly that we don't see that it was the demons that placed those thoughts in our head. They are very skillful at lining up all the facts to prove the thought. We beat Satan and the demons with the name of Jesus. It's a wonderful image of Satan and the demons in this Gospel passage, where the demons flex their muscles and scream at Jesus, "What have we to do with You?" The name of Jesus is more powerful than any demon. The name of Jesus strikes fear into the heart of Satan and all his minions. That is why the name of Jesus is to be on our lips with every breath. If we center our thoughts on the name of Jesus, then Satan will not get us with any other thoughts. That is why the Fathers say that we descend with our mind into our heart, and we guard our mind with our heart, because the name of Jesus is our protection: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." When Jesus says, "Go," the demons flee.



To the vegetarian and vegan who insist on 'animal rights', this story may appear abhorrent and distasteful - and so it should be - but the underlying point of the destruction of the swine is not that animals are not important but that humans are more important.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- July 4 A special (MR) 9:00 a.m. Patriotic Divine Liturgy
July 18 Archeparchial 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 Savioral 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

Archeparchial Marriage Jubilarian Celebration (Sept. 10 – cf. article under General Announcements)

Saint of the Week

THE HOLY MARTYR HYACINTH — July 3

Saint Hyacinth (the middle figure in the icon), a native of Caesarea in Cappadocia, was raised in a Christian family. The emperor Trajan made the boy his chamberlain, unaware that he was a secret Christian. One day, while the emperor and his entourage were offering sacrifice to idols, the young Hyacinth remained at the palace, shut himself up in a small room, and prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the servants overheard him praying and denounced him to the emperor. He said that although Hyacinth was entrusted with an imperial position, he did not honor the Roman gods, and was secretly praying to Christ. Hyacinth was brought to trial before Trajan, who tried to persuade him to deny Christ and sacrifice to the deaf and dumb idols, but the holy martyr remained steadfast and declared that he was a Christian. He was whipped and thrown into prison, where the only food given to him was what had already been offered to the idols. They hoped that he would be overcome with hunger and thirst and eat it. St Hyacinth did not eat the food, and he died after thirty-eight days. When they came to torture him again, they found his dead body. The jailer saw two angels in the cell. One covered the saint's body with his own garment, and the other placed a crown of glory on his head. The twelve-year-old Hyacinth suffered for Christ in the year 108 in the city of Rome. Later, the saint's relics were transferred to Caesarea. Our Byzantine Catholic Nuns of St. Claire in North Royalton, OH, now have his relics.



General Announcements

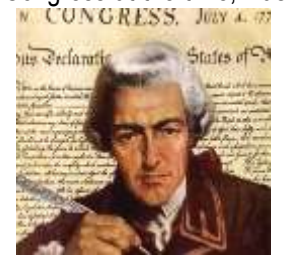
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK

This past Thursday, June 29 was the **Feast of Preeminent Apostles Saints Peter and Paul**. It is one of five Holy Day of Obligations of the Byzantine Rite. 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); *“(the faithful) 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 participation renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.*



Did You Know this about the Declaration of Independence?

John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress at the time, was the first and only person to sign the Declaration on July 4, 1776 (he signed it in the presence of just one man, Charles Thomson, the secretary of Congress). According to legend, the founding father signed his name bigger than everyone else's because he wanted to make sure "fat old King George" could read it without his spectacles. But the truth is that Hancock had a large blank space and didn't realize the other men would write their names smaller. Today, the term "John Hancock" has become synonymous with a person's signature.



Thomas Jefferson and **John Adams**, the only two presidents to sign the document, both died on the Fourth of July in 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration. Adam's last words have been reported as "Thomas Jefferson survives." He did not know that Jefferson had died only a few hours before. **James Monroe**, the last president who was a Founding Father, also died on July 4 in 1831. **Calvin Coolidge**, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872, and, so far, is the only President to have been born on Independence Day.



REGISTRATION ON-GOING FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 15, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. This celebration has been extended on a new format. It will take place on **Sunday, September 10, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Elias Church, Munhall.**

If you are observing one of the above milestones, *please contact the Church office if you plan or DO NOT plan to attend!* All specially marked anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. *The final day of registration is Sunday, July 16.*