

Parish Offerings – 16th Sunday after Pentecost — Sept. 17, 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 (\$1,752) YP (\$7)	\$1,759.00
Holy Days (\$223) YP (\$2)	225.00
Coffee Social	68.00
Votive Candles	95.00
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	\$2,147.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$672) YP (\$1)	\$673.00
Utilities	25.00
Votive Candles	40.01
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	\$738.01

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (19)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (77); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 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 Funeral Home

238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688

Michael P. Ferrell, Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



Please patronize our sponsors! They make it weekly & informative S.O.T. report without an added expense to the Church. New sponsors are welcome, please contact Church 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!



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



North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172370

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

September 24, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 39



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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

17th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Sept 24	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Alexander F. Perschy <i>(14th ann of passing)</i>	Son: Kurt
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Ethel M. Galida <i>(3rd ann of passing 9/22)</i>	Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen
Mon, Sept 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Thanksgiving For a successful previous surgery	George Zula
<i>Passing of the Holy Apostle & Evangelist John</i>			
Tues, Sept 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Special Intention of Jacob Gasser	Carla & Mark Gasser
Wed, Sept 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Gramata <i>(69th ann of passing)</i>	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
<i>Venerable Father & Confessor Chariton</i>			
Thrs, Sept 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Julie Ann Bersavage	Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz
Fri, Sept 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula <i>(6th ann of passing)</i>	Zula Family
Sat, Sept 30	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Karen Purcell <i>(10th ann of passing 7/29)</i>	Son: Andrew, Grace & Family

*Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Feast
4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

18th Sunday after Pentecost

**Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos
Patroness of the Metropolitan Providence**

SUN, Oct 1	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Diana Charles <i>(1st ann of passing)</i>	Elaine Kurtanich
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ John Spontak <i>(20th ann of passing 10/2)</i>	Son: Robert

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 25 – CINDY MEADERS; Sept 29 – Kayla Marks.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, 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, 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 Cifrulak, 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. My siblings and I were raised in a good Catholic home but now, as adults, we no longer all share the same moral code—some follow authentic Catholic Church doctrine while others rationalize that their immoral lifestyles are actually moral. Any time I try to help family members, I'm viewed as an intolerant religious freak. Even my parents consider my efforts to be out of line and hurtful. **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** You have an obligation to raise your children in the truth, teaching them genuine morals. This may mean unrest in your family, as you have already seen. But it may comfort you to know that Jesus recognized family division would sometimes be an issue for those who remain faithful to him: Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (Mt 10:34-38)



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 24 — Sept. 30, 2023

(MR): **In memory of Chirko & Charochak Families**
offered by Florence Charochak

(NS): **In memory of George Krulac** *(26th ann of pass 9/26)*
(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2024 offered by Dgtr: Barbara (Peter) Stecko (NS) AVAILABLE 2024



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of parishioner, Beverly “Jean” Harsh, 79, of McKees Rocks (Presston), PA at UPMC Mercy, Pittsburgh, PA on Friday, September 22, 2023.



She had been faithfully married to her late Husband, Michael for 60 years, and will be laid to rest next to him at Calvary Cemetery, McKees Rocks. She is survived by Dgtr: parishioner, Kimberly “Kim” (Eric) Ruud; and Son: Michael III.

along with several grandchildren and great grandchildren. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home is handling arrangements. As per her wishes there will be no visitation or viewing. In blessed repose grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Beverly, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'!

North Side

No Particular Announcements this Week

A Note From Our E.C.F. Coordinator

Come today following the morning Divine Liturgy and learn about a new ministry in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, **Gift of Mary!** Born out of a love for the most vulnerable, Gift of Mary is here to catch the women who fall through the cracks of the system. Every day women approach the Red Door to



escape abuse and there are few other options to help them. **Gift of Mary** has become one of those vital safety nets. Approved by the Diocese and in collaboration with Move a Mountain Missions and the Red Door, Gift of Mary provides safety, a landing place, dignity, and future to women who would otherwise end up seriously injured or even dead. — Since **October 1** is both a Sunday and a Marian Feast, I'll be bringing **biscuits and sausage gravy** so we can have a bit of a brunch. The **youth group will have their bake sale that day** too. If you wish to bring something to share you are most welcome.

THIRD ANNUAL BLESSING OF ANIMALS FORTHCOMING — Since our pets are



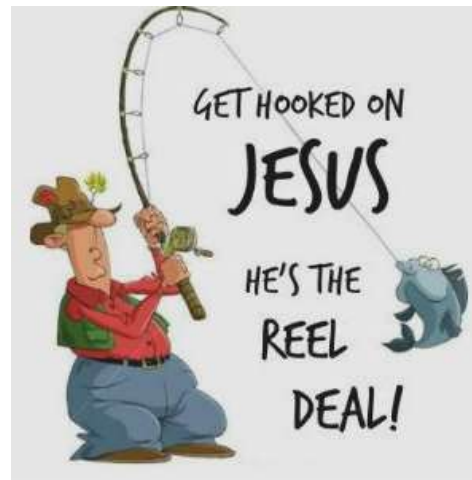
Blessing of the Animals

very dear to us, our pastor will, once again this year, beseech God to shower blessings upon them. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, (Feast Day, Oct. 4), who loved animals and often spoke to them, and whose feast is at the beginning of October, our pastor is inviting you to bring your pets for a short blessing serving on **Friday, October 6, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. at the (MR) Church's side entrance.** This blessing signifies our gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of companionship that our pets afford us.

17th Sunday after Pentecost

A Preposterous Request — LK 5:1-11

It all started with the Lord's preposterous request. He said to Simon, "Put out into the



deep water and let down your nets for a catch." What's so out of line about that? Three things! **First**, anybody knows that the best net fishing is done at night when the fish can't see the net in the dark—not in broad daylight. **Second**, the fishermen had just come in from fishing all night, having caught nothing. Obviously the fish were somewhere else. **Third**, now their nets were all cleaned from their night's work. It was a messy job to clean those nets of seaweed and scum. Besides, these fishermen were tired and discouraged. Who wants to

start out on the day shift right after finishing a long night shift? What Jesus asked was beyond all reason and all fishing experience. How would Peter respond? Here's how he did respond. "Master," he began. So far, so good. This seems to imply complete obedience. But then Peter protested, "We have worked all night long but have caught nothing." Peter was sitting on the fence. On the one hand, he wanted to obey Jesus. On the other hand, he knew that it was utter foolishness. Something about Jesus struck Peter as different from any other person he had ever met. He heard promises more beautiful than the bewitching charm of blue Galilee, sparkling in the morning sun. Suddenly something snapped in Peter's heart. He jumped off the fence on the side of obedience, saying to Jesus, **"Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."** At that precise point, Peter surrendered the keys of his life to Jesus—all the keys, including the master key. It was an electric encounter on the shore between the Carpenter and the fisherman. The base essence of Peter's reply was, "You say . . . I will." That was an obedient surrender of the keys based on an implicit trust in Jesus. James, John, and others followed Peter in heading out for the deep. After the Lord's preposterous request followed his fantastic gift. These fishermen netted a whopping catch. They had never seen a catch like that. Their net almost broke; their boats almost sank, and they hardly had enough men to haul in the fish. They were astounded that it happened in broad daylight. God was saying in language that fishermen understand what amazing things can happen when the keys of a lift are surrendered to Jesus. It illustrated the truth that God never ask of us anything, no matter how costly, but what he gives us back a hundred times more. The Twenty-third Psalm puts it in these words, "My cup runneth over." We ask God for a grain of sand and he gives us a whole beach. **God always gives far more than either we desire or deserve, according to our trust in him.**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1	.....	Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
October 1-5	.....	Annual Clergy Retreat at the Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA
October 6	.....	Each Friday: (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 8	.....	(NS) PAC/FAC Meeting in Church following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
October 15	.....	Deanery Pasta Dinner from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.
October 16	.....	PAC/FAC Meeting, Monday @ 7:00 p.m.
October 24	.....	(MR) PAC/FAC Meeting in Church Office @ 7:00 p.m.
October 29	.....	Sunday of Christ the King.
	.....	Annual Moleben for our 4 saintly bishops. @ 3:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week

THE HOLY MARTYR CALLISTRATUS & COMPANIONS — September 27

Callistratus was born in Carthage. He was a Christian from birth, for his father and grandfather were Christians. One of Callistratus's ancestors, Neochorus by name, was a soldier in Jerusalem under Pontius Pilate, at the time of the Crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Witnessing the many miracles at the time of Christ's death, Neochorus believed in Him, and was instructed in the Faith and baptized by an apostle. Returning home to Carthage, Neochorus brought his Christian Faith with him as a precious pearl. So it was that in time Callistratus was born, baptized and raised a Christian. While he was in the army there were no other Christians in his regiment besides him. One of his companions, seeing how **St. Callistratus arose at night and prayed to God, reported him as a Christian to the commander, Persentinian.** Persentinian was a cruel torturer of Christians. In order to confirm that Callistratus was indeed a Christian, the commander ordered him to offer sacrifice to the idols, which Callistratus straightway refused to do. He was then severely beaten and thrown into the sea. However, the power of God saved him, and he emerged from the sea in sound health. *Seeing Callistratus's endurance and miracles, forty-nine other soldiers came to believe in Christ.* They were beaten and thrown into prison with Callistratus. In prison Callistratus taught his companions the Faith, and strengthened them. They displayed great bravery in suffering, and the Lord manifested great power through them. Then the evil torturer sent soldiers to the prison by night, and they slew St. Callistratus and his forty-nine companions. They suffered for the truth in the year 304. A church was later built over their relics.



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General Announcements

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: COME & SEE WEEKEND — Young men 18-35 are invited to a weekend retreat, Friday through Saturday, **November 10-12, 2023** at Saints Cyril &



Methodius Seminary. *The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest.* No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense involved in participating in this retreat.

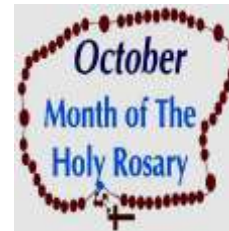
Deadline for online registration is at rector@bcs.edu by Wed. Oct 18.

PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO SERVE PASTA DINNER — Mark your

calendars! The Priests and Deacons in the Pittsburgh Deanery will be again hosting a **FREE PASTA DINNER** at St. Elias Church, Munhall on **Sunday October 15, 2023** from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. A signup list is located in the Church. We must know how many to prepare for! The final day for registration is Sunday, **October 8.** A freewill offering will be taken to subsidize the project. Any profit that will be made will go to the *Archieparchial Priests' Pension Plan.* Come join us! A signup sheet has been placed near the (MR) side vestibule entrance & (NS) narthex.



MONTH OF OCTOBER: THE HOLY ROSARY — At the request of several parishioners



to honor Our Blessed Mother in this special month of October, the Rosary according to our Byzantine-Ruthenian (Rusyn) tradition will be prayed **each Friday throughout the month @ 6:00 p.m.** at our Parish in McKees Rocks. This sacred devotion has been a part of our Church since its founding over 100 years ago which our Founders and Benefactors brought with them from Carpathian Homeland. Come and join us as we pray together honoring and petitioning the Holy Theotokos.

RESERVATIONS FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS — Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary

Lamp reservation are continuing to be being taken on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both areas only two weekends of each will be accepted. When the demand subsides, you will be able to reserve additional weekend dates. Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend (per candle/DL) in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and place it in the collection basket. You may reserve unlimited weekend DL's! Please take care of this matter quickly to acquire your special dates.

