

Parish Offerings – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost — June 11, 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 (\$594) YP (\$2)	\$596.00
All Saints (\$1,188) YP (\$11) Holy Days (\$45)	1,244.00
Special Donation (In memory of Marie & Michael Mitro)	90.00
Votive Candles (\$159.50) Peter’s Pence (\$10)	169.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,099.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$75.00
All Saints (\$515) Holy Days (\$10)	525.00
Improvements (\$5) Utilities (\$10)	15.00
Votive Candles (\$68.50) Peter’s Pence (\$10)	78.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$693.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (56); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)



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Michael P. Ferrell
 Supervisor, CFSP
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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 GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2nd Sunday of the Petrine Fast

June 18, 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.
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Holy Day Divine Liturgies w/Great Vespers (Oblig) (MR): 7:00 pm Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm
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Daily Divine Liturgy M-F (MR) 8:00 am Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.
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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: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.

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

June 18, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 25



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date **Time** **Intention** **Requested By**

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

2nd Sunday of the Petrine Fast — Annual Father's Day

SUN, Jun 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Living & Deceased Fathers of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Federal Holiday — Juneteenth — Banks Closed & No Postal Service

Mon, Jun 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene + John Bordas (wedding ann. 6/17) Hubal Family

Tue, Jun 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Irwin Gagolic Diane & Gary Moran

The First Day of Summer begins at 10:57 a.m.

Recommended SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for vocations

Wed, Jun 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Myrona + William Duggan Theresa Kundrat



Thrs, June 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew J. Drukalsky Sister: Eleanor Masters
(4th ann of passing 6/10)

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

Fri, Jun 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Peter M. Zappas (4th ann of passing 6/10) Family

Anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Peter Michailenko Wilson Family

Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Precursor, & Baptist of the Lord, John — Solemn Holy Day

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for vocations

Sat, Jun 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Elsie Eberle (birthday) Nancy & Michael Ferrell

4th Sunday after Pentecost



3rd & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast
Final Day of Nativity of the Baptist

SUN, Jun 25 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

Jun 18 – Sandra Rosko; Jun 19 – Eric Rudd; Jun 24 – BRADLEY SPONTAK.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, 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.

BRIDGEVILLE REHAB & CARE CENTER (3590 Washington Pike, Bridgeville 15017): Dan Pikras.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is fighting a sin? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** It depends. If fighting is done out of aggression, especially for the purpose of seriously injuring another person, then it is a grave sine against the fifth commandment, "You shall not kill" (Ex 20:13; CCC 2258). This commandment refers not merely to killing but to any attempt to unjustly harm another person. (Note: Some modern translations of the Bible use the word "murder" instead of "kill" in this commandment. 'Murder' is actually a more literal translation of the original Hebrew). Jesus taught that we should not try to "get even" for attacks on ourselves, even physical attacks, when they involve only ourselves and cause no serious harm. This is really what He meant by "turn the other cheek" (Mt 5:39; Lk 6:29). Jesus' command to "turn the other cheek" means that we should not start fights, and we should forgive people's offenses against us. It does not mean, though, that we have to be beaten up by a cruel aggressor. If attacks on others are also involved or there is a chance of injury to oneself, then the commandment "You shall not kill" does not apply (CCC 2265-65). We can defend ourselves and are obliged to protect others as best we can. We are to use only as much force as necessary to stop an aggressor.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

June 18 — June 24, 2023



R): In memory of Bishop John M. Bilock (birthday (6/20)

offered by Anonymous

(NS): In memory of Anna Marie Demianczyk (1st ann of pass 6/19)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023 offered by Dgtr: Dawn Ringes (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner



Geraldine "Gerry" Babin, 90, of Kennedy Township on Monday, June 12, 2023 at the Residence of the Willows. She is survived by her children: Son: Joseph, Dgtr: Mary Ann (Michael) Meador and Son: James (Patty), and several grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, handled the arrangements. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Friday, June 9th. Interment followed at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Babin Family and all their

relatives and friends. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Gerry, and remember her forever! *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat!*

HIGH-LIGHTED SUBJECT MATTERS DISCUSSED AT LAST WEEK'S PAC/FAC MEETING — At the

June 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. **Parish & Financial Advisory Councils Meeting, following in the rectory office**, the following agenda was discussed; (1) Reviewed three bids to replace the side porch roof leading into the Church. It had been bringing water near the second elevator and in the garage area. Keystone Roofing, Inc., gave the best bid and seemed well qualified is to be contacted to do the work. The last time a roof was put in place was in 1989. (2) Our parish E.C.F. Religious Education Coordinator, Steven Puluka submitted his retirement from the program.



Subdeacon Luke Iyengar was appointed to this position; (2) Discussed the upcoming Social Events which include Flag Day Activity (June 14) in McKees Rocks; Parishes Church Picnic (July 23) in Robinson; Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage (Sept. 2-3) and the Archieparchial Marriage Jubilee (Sept. 10) at St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA.

North Side



SPECIAL PENTECOST TREAT — On the Patronal Feast of Pentecost, those in attendance received a special edible treat at the mirovanije. As last year, Parishioner, **Kathy Mullen**, baked homemade dove cookies and distributed them. What a nice and tasty treat it was to mark the celebratory occasion. A special thank you is extended to Kathy for making our Patronal Feast special with her special gift. God bless you for your unselfish display of faith and love!

ACT & SUPPORT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COMMENCES THIS WEEK — DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY — Catholic eparchies and dioceses across the Commonwealth are marking Religious Freedom Week which begins **June 22 and continues through June 29**: Let us stand up and learn, defend, proclaim the Truth of our Faith and by offering this prayer for Religious Freedom: **O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome — for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us — this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen."**



3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Don't Be Anxious — Seek First His Kingship Over You!

(Matthew 6:22-34)

What does "serving two masters" and "anxiety" have in common? They both have the same root problem -- being divided within oneself. The root word for



"anxiety" literally means "being of two minds." An anxious person is often "tossed to and fro" and paralyzed by indecision. Fear of some bad outcome usually cripples those afflicted with anxiety. It is also the case with someone who wants to submit to God but also live according to the world's standards of success and fulfillment. Who is the master in charge of your life? Our "master" is that which governs our thought-life, shapes our ideals, controls the desires of the heart and the values we choose to live by. We can be ruled by many different things -- the love of money or possessions, the power of position, the glamour of wealth and prestige, the driving force of unruly passions and addictions.

Ultimately the choice boils down to two: God and "mammon." What is mammon? "Mammon" stands for "material wealth or possessions" or whatever tends to "control our appetites and desires". There is one Master alone who has the power to set us free from the slavery of sin and fear. That Master is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus uses an illustration from nature — the birds and the flowers — to show how God provides for them in the natural order of his creation. How much more can we, as his children, rely upon God's providential care? God is utterly reliable. In the Lord's Prayer we are reminded that God is our provider when we pray: *Give us this day our daily bread*. What is bread, but the very staple of life and symbol of all that we need to live and grow. Anxiety is neither helpful nor necessary. It robs us of faith and confidence in God's help and it saps our energy for doing good. Jesus admonishes his followers to put away anxiety and preoccupation with material things and instead to seek first the things of God — his kingdom and righteousness. Anxiety robs the heart of trust in the mercy and goodness of God and in his loving care for us. God knows our needs even before we ask and he gives generously to those who trust in him. Who is your master -- God or mammon?

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 23 Vigil (NS) Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist @ 6:00 p.m.
 June 24 Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
 June 28 **Great Vespers with Divine Liturgy of SS. Peter & Paul — (MR) 7:00 p.m.**
 June 29 ... **Holy Day of Obligation: Feast SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.**
 July 4 A special (MR) 9:00 a.m. Patriotic Divine Liturgy.
 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 27 GCU Byzantine Catholic Family Day, Kennywood Park. Tickets at gcuusa.com

Save the Dates

Archieparchial Altar Server Day (TBA); Churches Picnic (July 23); Archieparchial Marriage Jubilarian Celebration (Sept. 10 – cf. article under General Announcements

Solemn Holy Day of the Week Nativity of St. John the Baptist — June 24



Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel appeared to Zachariah the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. Before he announced the miraculous conception to the unwed virgin [Mary], the archangel announced the miraculous conception to the childless old woman [Elizabeth]. Zachariah did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God and this is why his tongue was tied with dumbness and remained as such until eight days after the birth of John. On that day, the relatives of Zachariah and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and for the sake of giving him a name. When they asked the father, what name he wishes to give to his son and being dumb, he wrote

on a tablet: "John." At that moment his tongue became loosed and he began to speak. The home of Zachariah was on the heights between Bethlehem and Hebron. The news of the appearance of the angel of God to Zachariah was spread throughout all of Israel, as well as of his dumbness and the loosening of his tongue at the moment when he wrote the name "John." The news concerning this even reached Herod. Therefore, when Herod sent soldiers to slay the children throughout Bethlehem, he directed men to the hilly dwelling place of the family of Zachariah to kill John also. However, Elizabeth promptly hid the child. Enraged, King Herod sent his executioners to Zachariah in the Temple to slay him (for it happened that it was Zachariah's turn again to serve in the Temple of Jerusalem). Zachariah was slain between the court and the temple and his blood coagulated and petrified on the stone pavers and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave where she died soon after. The young child John remained in the wilderness alone under the care of God and God's angels.

General Announcements

ARCHIEPARCHIAL CHURCHES RETURNING TO TRADITIONAL WAY OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*****11 days prior to Commencement*****

At our Annual Clergy Days on May 23, 2023, we have been advised by the Chancery Office that since the World Health Organization declared an end to the emergency phase of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are to return to the traditional distribution of Holy Communion via one golden spoon. Our Holy Ghost Churches (MR & NS) will affect this ancient practice on the **Feasts of Saints Peter & Paul, June 29. Please be reminded that upon approaching you are to (1) open your mouth wide, DO NOT extend your tongue (i.e., do as you would at the dentist office); (2) tilt your head back slightly; (3) the Holy Eucharist will be placed into your mouth. Do not close your mouth on the spoon.**



REGISTER 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.*



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.



PREPARING FOR OUR ANNUAL CHURCHES PICNIC — If you would like to help in organizing our upcoming Churches Picnic on July 23, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. please attend next Sunday's organizational meeting following the (MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy in the church basement. Due to many families winding up their summer vacations and our younger members getting ready to return to school, we are trying a July date than than having it in August. We need your ideas!

