

**Parish Offerings – Man Born Blind Sunday — May 14, 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 (\$2,498) YP (\$3) .....	\$2,501.00
Holy Days .....	95.00
Seminary .....	140.00
Votive Candles .....	226.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,962.00

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$915) YP (\$1) .....	\$916.00
Holy Days .....	25.00
Seminary .....	30.00
Votive Candles .....	123.50

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$1,094.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (34)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (71); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)

*Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) — Wed. (MR) 7:00 p.m. (12);*

*Thrs. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (24); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (28)*



**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*

**Ascension**  
 OF THE LORD

**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
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**VITO'S HANDYMAN SERVICES**

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!**

**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**SUNDAY OF 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**  
**Postfestive of the Ascension — May 21, 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.

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

Let us honor today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, namely the God-mantled Fathers who speaking of divine things sang in the midst of the Church a hymn in unison, teaching that the Trinity is one, not differing in substance or Godhead, refuting Arius and defending the true faith. They always intercede with the Lord to have mercy on our souls (Great Vespers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council Fathers)

May 21, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 21



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUM. COUNCIL Postfestive of the Ascension</b>			
SUN., May 21	9:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores + Michael Kurtanich (wed. ann 5/15)	Niece: Elaine	
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Spontak (19 <sup>th</sup> ann of pass 5/22)	Son: Robert	
Mon, May 22	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Basil P. Gramata (4 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)	Eleanor Gramata & George	
<b>Annual Clergy Day, St. John Cathedral, Munhall @ 9:00 a.m.</b>			
Tues, May 23	*** 7:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention	Angie & Michael Kendrach	
		of Allysa & Josh Kendrach (1 <sup>st</sup> wedding ann 5/21)	
Wed, May 24	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowatch (5 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)	Anne Myers	
<b>Third Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist</b>			
Thrs, May 25	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Edward Zotyak (birthday 5/23) + Dorothy Spadaro (birthday)	Florence	
<b>Final Day of the Ascension Feast REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)</b>			
Fri, May 26	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowatch (birthday)	Anne Meyers	
<b>Fifth &amp; Final Universal All Souls Saturday Vigil</b>			
	*** 6:00 p.m. (NS) + All Souls w/reading of Hramoty		
<b>FIFTH &amp; FINAL UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY</b>			
Sat., May 27	*** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + All Souls w/reading of Hramoty		
***** Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday			
	4:00 p.m. (MR) + Rose A. Debranski (birthday 5/28)	Dgr: Nancy	
<b>SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast — Mirovanije — Memorial Weekend</b>			
SUN., May 28	9:00 a.m. (MR) + Eleanor Kulka (10 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/26)	Children: Kathy & John.	
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + Margaret (Peg) Krulac (8 <sup>th</sup> ann of pass 5/22)	Dgr: Barb & Peter Stecko	
<b>Vigil for Pentecost Monday — 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Dolores Hudanick Children: Geo., Paul &amp; Janet</b>			

# 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

May 21 – Aria Grace Albanese; May 22 – Theresa Hrishenko, John Kutchmark, Jr., Ray Rippole, Emilia Wenger; May 23 – Carl Bates, Janet Herczak; May 25 – George Lucas, Nicholas Rosko; May 27 – Edward Wovchko.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, 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): Geraldine Babin, 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. What does "honor your father and your mother" mean? If the parents are abusive, does this change anything? A. **Catholic Apologist, Jim Blackburn.:** St. Paul clarifies the fourth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you" (Ex. 20:12), in his letter to the Ephesians: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right (Eph. 6:1, emphasis added). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) explains: As long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all that they ask of him when it is for his good or that of the family . . . But if a child is convinced in conscience that it would be morally wrong to obey a particular order, he must not do so . . . Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so with respect, which is always owed to them. (CCC 2217)

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**May 21 – May 27, 2023**

(MR): **Thanksgiving** (46<sup>th</sup> ann of Priesthood 5/22)

offered by Otče Duchovnyj

(NS): **In memory of Anna Spontak** (19<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/22)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Son: Robert

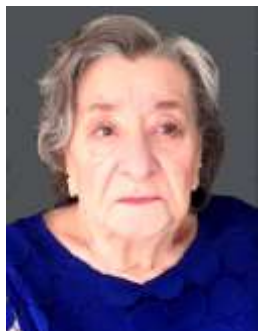
(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of long-time parishioner, **Irene O. (Budul) Bordas, 96**, of Ben Avon who passed away, at UPMC Shadyside on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. She had been on our parish's home-bound list for several years. She is survived her children: Karen (Frank) Grzywinski; Janet (Ron) Fabin; John M. Bordas (Sherry Campbell); Robert (Cindy) Bordas; Eileen (Mark) Strellick; Carol (Jim) Loutzenhiser; and Michael Bordas. The McDermott Funeral Home, Kennedy Township, PA handled the arrangements. A Paschal Divine Liturgy was offered on Monday, May 8th @ 10:00 a.m. Interment followed at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township; Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Bordas Family, to the grandchildren and all their good friends and relatives. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Irene, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!



### AN ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONOR PURCHASES FLOWERS FOR THE BLESSED MOTHER ICON

— Once again, an anonymous source has donated beautiful and colorful flowers placed before the Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis for all four Fridays during the month. May is the month of the Holy Virgin Mary. We thank whoever you are, and we commend you and your intentions before the feet of the Holy Theotokos. Let us remember that each of us can place a spiritual bouquet before her on all Fridays this month by praying the Holy Rosary.



**PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING** — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of our June meeting for **Monday, June 12, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Church office.** The agenda will include work around the church, retirement of our E.C.F. Coordinator, upcoming parish July Picnic, etc. Please place this date on your agenda.

## North Side

**PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING** — members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of our June meeting on **Sunday, June 4, 2023 following the Divine Liturgy in Church.** The agenda will include work around the church, retirement of our E.C.F. Coordinator, upcoming parish July Picnic, etc. Please place this date on your agenda.

**EASTER DUTY PRECEPT** — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED (MANDATED) to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death AND during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). In regards to the latter, this is traditionally known as the EASTER DUTY. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary before receiving Holy Communion. Serious Sins are those fractures especially against the Ten Commandments and omissions of the 6 Precepts of the Church, but not limited to them. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (June 4)** is the final day to take care of this important spiritual matter without incurring serious (mortal) sin of omission. Use the special examination of conscience forms located in the vestibule and narthex of the Church to assist you in making a good confession of sins.

**Don't Forget to Wear GREEN Next Weekend — Pentecost Sunday — OUR PATRONAL FEAST!**

# THE SEVENTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

## Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

### The Core of Our Common Faith *(first read John 17: 1-13)*

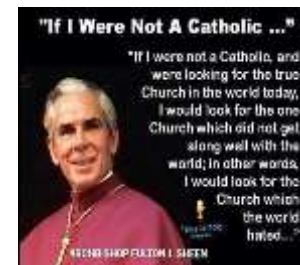
Today, we are commemorating the Fathers of The First Council of Nicea held in the year 325 AD. It is the first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. *Most significantly, it resulted in the first, extra-biblical, uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.* With the creation of the creed, a precedent was established for subsequent local and regional councils of Bishops (Synods) to create statements of belief and canons of the true faith — the intent being to define unity of essential beliefs for the whole of Christendom. The council did not create the doctrine of the deity of Christ but it did settle, to some degree, the debate within



the Early Christian communities regarding the divinity of Christ. This idea of the divinity of Christ, along with the idea of Christ as a messenger from God (The Father), had long existed in various parts of the Roman Empire. The divinity of Christ had also been widely endorsed by the Christian community in the otherwise pagan city of Rome. The council affirmed and defined what it believed to be the teachings of the Apostles regarding who Christ is: that Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father. Derived from Greek "ecumenical" meaning "worldwide or universal." One purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements arising from within the Church of Alexandria over the nature of the Son in relationship to the Father. Saints Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius claimed that Christ is God and the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arianism comes, denied this claim. The council decided against the Arians overwhelmingly. Of the estimated 318 attendees, all but two agreed to sign the creed and these two, along with Arius, were banished to Illyria. Another result of the council was an agreement on when to celebrate Easter, the most important feast of the ecclesiastical calendar.

### Why we need the Catholic Church – In a Nutshell

1. We are made in God's image and likeness, meant for a deep, loving relationship with him. (Genesis 1:27);
2. Due to sin, we have broken this friendship with God. (Romans 6:23);
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, became man, died on the cross, and rose from the grave for our salvation. (Philippians 2:7-10);
4. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and through Jesus our relationship with God is restored. (Ephesians 2:8);
5. Through the Catholic Church which Jesus established while on earth, we have access to grace by Baptism and are nourished by the Eucharist and other sacraments. (Matthew 16:18-19);
6. Through these sacraments, the Holy Spirit changes us, perfects us, fulfills our every desire, ultimately bringing us to eternal beatitude in heaven. (Matthew 5:48).



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 22-23 .....	Annual Clergy Days, St. John the Baptist Cathedral
May 26 .....	Anticipated 5 <sup>th</sup> Universal All Souls Commemoration — (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 27 .....	5 <sup>th</sup> & Final Universal All Souls Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m.
May 28 .....	Pentecost Sunday the Patronal Feast of both Parishes. ..... Patronal Feast Luncheon & honoring our Graduates & Retiring E.C.F. Coordinator ..... (NS) Vigil Divine Liturgy for Pentecost Monday, Sunday evening @ 6:00 p.m.
May 29 ...	(Memorial Day) Pentecost Monday — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – (MR) 9:00 a.m..
June 4 .....	Sunday of All Saints — Final Day for fulfilling Easter (Paschal) Duty. ..... (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the Divine Liturgy.
.....	Commencement of the Petrine Fast (Church Slavonic: Petrovka).
June 12 .....	(MR) PAC/FAC Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

## Saints of the Week

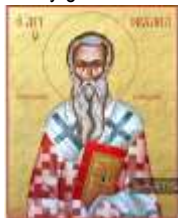
### THE THIRD FINDING OF THE HEAD OF THE BAPTIST, JOHN — May 25

The Third Discovery of the Venerable Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John occurred in about the year 850 (see the account of the First and Second Discoveries on February 24). The head of St John the Forerunner was found in the city of Emesia during a time of unrest at Constantinople connected with the exile of St John Chrysostom (November 13). It was transferred to Komana during the Saracen raids (about 820-820) and it was hidden in the ground during a period of iconoclastic persecution. When the veneration of icons was restored, Patriarch Ignatius (847-857) saw in a vision the place where the head of St John the Forerunner was hidden. The patriarch communicated this to the emperor, who sent a delegation to Komana. There the head was found a third time around the year 850. Afterwards the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and here on May 25 it was placed in a church at the court. Part of the head is on Mt. Athos. The Third Discovery of the Head of John the Baptist is commemorated on May 25.



### Venerable Michael, Confessor & Bishop of Synnada — May 23

From his youth Michael longed for the monastic life and was sent to a monastery on the coast of the Black Sea. At the monastery he engaged in spiritual struggles and was soon glorified by gifts from the Lord. Once, during a harvest, when the people were weakened by thirst, an empty metal vessel was filled with water by the prayer of the monks. Patriarch Tarasius consecrated Saint Michael as bishop of the city of Synnada. Through his holy life and wisdom, Saint Michael won the love of believers. He was present at the Seventh Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 787. When the Iconoclast heretic Leo the Armenian (813-820) assumed the throne, he began to expel hierarchs from their Sees, appointing heretics in their place. Saint Michael defended the True Faith, bravely opposing the heretics and denouncing their error. Leo the Armenian brought Saint Michael to trial, but not fearing torture he answered resolutely, "I venerate the holy icons of my Savior Jesus Christ and the All-Pure Virgin, His Mother, and all the saints, and it is to them I bow down. I shall not obey your decrees to remove icons from churches." Leo then banished Saint Michael to the city of Eudokiada, where the confessor died about the year 821.



## General Announcements

**FINAL DAY TO SIGNUP FOR OUR PARISH LUNCHEON** — Our Patronal Feast Day Dinner will take place next week, **Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023 @ 1:00**



**p.m.** It has been decided to have it in the Church Basement rather than the School Gym. Thus far, we will also honor three graduates, and the retirement of our E.C.F. Coordinator. All Members of both Holy Ghost Parishes of MR & NS are asked to put this day aside to glorify God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) during these green holy days! The event will be a luncheon. The cost: a free-will offering. There will be no tickets, but you **MUST** sign

the sheets placed in the (MR) side vestibule; and the (NS) narthex. Deadline: May 21<sup>st</sup>. Further information, please phone Norma Kacsur (412) 331-4864.

**GRADUATES MUST REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED** — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all our High School and University/College Graduates on the occasion of our **Patronal Feast, May 28**. All MR & NS graduates will be our guests and receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must

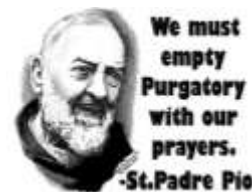


phone or email the church office with the following information: (1) *University/College of Graduation*; (2) *Date of Graduation*; (3) *Graduating Degree*; (4) *Future plans and employment*; and (4) *if will you be attending the Recognition Luncheon*. Call the Church Office A.S.A.P. Deadline is May 21<sup>st</sup>.



**LAST MARIAN DEVOTION THIS FRIDAY** — In all Rites of the Catholic Church, the month of May is especially devoted to the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Come join us for the final Friday of May at the **HGC-MR at 6:00 p.m.**

**FINAL ALL SOULS COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK** — The 5<sup>th</sup> and Final All Souls commemoration will be offered this coming **Friday, May 26 (NS)**; and **Saturday, May 27 (MR)**. This final Eucharistic Service in behalf of all Souls comes a day prior to The *Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, also known as Pentecost*. Our prayer is directed to God the Holy Spirit to grant eternal rest and a blessed repose to All Souls, especially the names submitted earlier. If you have not submitted the envelope this year there is



still time — until this Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat! Come with love in your heart & pray for their repose!

**THE "GLORIFIED-CROSS" CONTINUES TO BE DISPLAYED UNTIL PENTECOST SUNDAY** — Throughout the entire Paschal Period, our Byzantine Catholic Church glorifies the triumphant Cross of Christ **So until Pentecost Sunday all our Byzantine Crosses (even the ones you wear) should be turned in the reversed manner**. Thus, the bottom bar should look as though it's backwards!

