

Parish Offerings – 9th Sunday after Pentecost — July 30, 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 (\$4,246) YP (\$9)	\$4,255.00
Holy Days	10.00
Votive Candles	118.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,383.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$675) YP (\$1)	\$676.00
Improvements	25.00
Votive Candles	51.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$752.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (36)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (55); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (31)



Thanks to Dad Bergerold (2008 Matthew 19:29-31) 12-02-1999
 TODAY'S READING IS MATTHEW 10:30 ...
 "BUT THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE ALL ... ER ... NUMBERED"



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Transfiguration of Our Lord — Aug. 6, 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

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 McKees Rocks, PA 15136
 Phone: (412) 331-9713

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Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP

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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!



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 #172378

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).

August 6, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 32



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Transfiguration — Solemn Blessing of Grapes & Fruits

SUN, Aug 6	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elizabeth Petruna <i>(4th ann of passing 8/2)</i>	Bilak & Tomchak Families
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Mary (Kost) Sahayda	Family
Mon, Aug 7	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Andrew Kriska <i>(40th day of passing 8/6)</i>	Mildred Terrek
Tue, Aug 8	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margaret Shanta	Dgtr: Beverly Vento

The Holy & Glorious Apostle Matthias

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

for the intention of the return of our family, relatives, friends, and parishioners

Wed, Aug 9	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Andrew Nazak <i>(4th ann. of passing 8/5)</i>	Anonymous
Thrs, Aug 10	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Susan + David Pasternak	Family
		REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for the <i>intention of the return of our family, relatives, friends, and parishioners</i>	
Fri, Aug 11	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Edward Zotyak <i>(7th ann. of passing)</i>	Wife: Florence
Sat, Aug 12	9:00 a.m. (NS)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Transfiguration Feast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Pauline + Michael Kachuta Family

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Transfiguration Feast

SUN, Aug 13	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Carmella Mell <i>(13th ann of passing)</i>	Dgtr: Regina
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Agnes Knoll <i>(birthday 8/18)</i>	Son: William

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

Aug 7 – Carol Lipchick; Aug 9 – Russell Keller, Frank Lipchick, Gregory Rosko; Aug 10 – Betty Wickline; Aug 12 – Erik Wenger.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, 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.
VICTORIA MANOR PERSONAL CARE HOME (100 Rose Ct., Oakdale, PA 15071): Dan Pikras.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Are we obligated to forgive someone who has not asked for forgiveness? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Yes, we must forgive him. As Jesus makes clear in the Sermon on the Mount after providing the Lord's Prayer, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14-15). Jesus sets the example on the cross in asking his Father to forgive those who have crucified him. On the other hand, we need not necessarily associate with a person we forgive, especially if the wrongdoing he has committed against us is grave. And even if someone has repented of a grave offense, we need not necessarily associate with him. For example, if a woman has been sexually assaulted by a friend, she is morally obligated to forgive that friend but not morally obligated to continue having a friendship.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 6 – August 12, 2023

(MR): **In memory of Anne Hrebenak** *(21st ann of passing 8/22)*

offered by Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar

(NS): **In memory of Agnes Knoll** *(birthday 8/18)*

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023 offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2023

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

UPCOMING ORDINATION HERE AT HOLY GHOST CHURCH — The Ordination of the Subdiaconate & Diaconate upon Seminarian Nathaniel Tapsak will take place on **Sunday, August 20, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.** Archbishop Skurla will do the honors. Currently, Nathaniel is assigned to St. Michael Church, Canonsburg. This is a great opportunity to witness a minor and major Order to the Holy Priesthood. A light luncheon will be held here at the Church following the Liturgical Celebration. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. **We will need you to sign the list provided so that we may know how many to prepare for. RSVP is today, August 6th.** This is a distinct honor for our Parish. Let us show support to Nathaniel as he continues his journey to the altar of God!



TODAY'S MEETING: CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS — As the above article indicates, our parish will be hosting minor and major orders on Sunday, August 20, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m. There will be a social following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. We will need assistance arranging the day for all in attendance. **Following today's Divine Liturgy, Aug. 6, 2023, we would appreciate all who wish to help to meet in the Church Basement.** Your cooperation will be appreciated.

North Side

No Particular Announcements this Week

SUMMER IS NOT A TIME TO VACATION FROM WORSHIPPING GOD — Now that Summer is here many are vacationing. Please remember to keep the worship of God in your plans. The first Precept of the Church is to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. *This does not exclude vacation time!* The place to worship God is at the Divine Liturgy. He is most kind and merciful, sustaining and gifting us in all that we have and need. *A voluntarily absence without serious reason makes one guilty of mortal sin, and unable to approach Holy Communion until the sinful neglect is confessed in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation.* If you know that where you are traveling that there is no Catholic Church, please inform the Pastor so that a dispensation may be considered. Also, you can download an app on your cell phone called **"Mass Times."**



DO YOU HAVE CHURCH CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES — Soon the 2024 Church envelopes will be arriving here at the office. We are beginning to make the switch from this year to the next. If you have not used envelopes within the past two years, your name is probably not in the church's format. Church envelopes are a necessary part of the administrative workings of the parish. To be considered an active contributing member of the parish, which helps us meet our fiduciary responsibilities, we very much need your participation. Also, participation in capital donations is required to stand as a sponsor for Baptism, and Chrismation, Funerals, Weddings, etc. and other activities. You are encouraged to be enrolled in this aspect of the church. If you are currently without envelopes, and would like to become a contributing member with 2024 envelopes, **please call the Church office before the August 31, 2023 deadline.** Our Church appreciates you and wishes to serve you as a fully active member. Adult envelopes begin with all who have graduated high school.



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord (Mt. 17: 1-9)

Christian theology assigns a great deal of significance to the **Transfiguration**, based on multiple elements of the narrative. In Christian teachings, the **Transfiguration** is a pivotal moment, and



the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth. The **Transfiguration** not only supports the identity of Jesus as the Son of God (as in his Baptism), but the statement "listen to him", identifies him as the messenger and mouth-piece of God. The significance of this identification is enhanced by the presence of Elijah and Moses, for it indicates to the apostles that Jesus is the voice of God "par excellence", and instead of Elijah or Moses, he should be listened to, surpassing the laws of Moses by virtue of his filial relationship with God. In 2 Peter 1:16–18, echoes the same message: at the **Transfiguration** God assigns to Jesus a special "honor and glory" and it is the turning point at which God exalts

Jesus above all other powers in creation, and positions him as ruler and judge. The **Transfiguration** also echoes the teaching by Jesus (as in Matthew 22:32) that God is not "the God of the dead, but of the living". Although Moses had died and Elijah had been taken up to heaven centuries before (as in 2 Kings 2:11), they now live in the presence of the Son of God, implying that the same return to life can apply to all who face death and have faith. The faithful bring **Grapes and other fruits of the summer harvest are blessed. From grapes come the wine at which the transfigured Jesus appears in the Eucharistic Form; and the fruits symbol God's bounty to us His people and His desire to feed us.**

FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

The importance of Sunday and Participating at the Divine Liturgy

The following article was written by a Catholic Apologist, Matt Nelson and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of Sunday and worshipping at the Divine Liturgy. Space does not permit the entire article.

Every Sunday "the whole Christ" is reunited in and through the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, our choice to participate is salvific: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Theologian Colin Donovan reminds us that "in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) it is Christ himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to His. In no other way is it possible to adequately give thanks (Eucharistic) to God . . . than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ himself." Christ does with us in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) what we cannot do alone: make a perfect offering to the Father. The key to understanding why Catholics must attend Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) lies above all in the essence of the Mass (Divine Liturgy) itself. Our duty to be willing participants **IS NOT rooted in how it makes us feel but in what it is.** As the sacred meeting place of God and man, the Mass (Divine Liturgy) reorients our lives towards God, reunites us with him in love, and thereby communicates the grace of salvation to our souls. In the long run, there can be nothing more productive than that.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

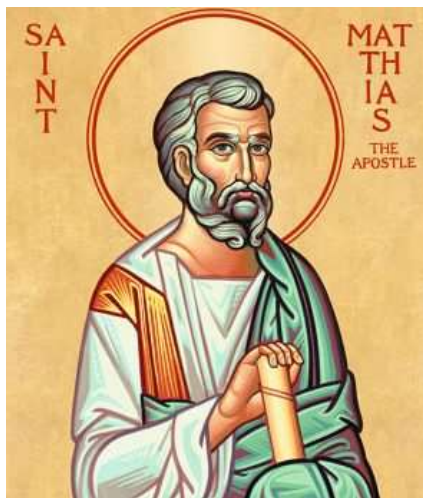
August 14 **Holy Day of Obligation** — Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 7:00 pm
August 15 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
August 19-20 School Year Blessing of Students & Teachers.
August 29 Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
September 1 Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
September 1-4 87th Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina.
September 4 Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday. Morning Divine Liturgy (MR) 9:00 a.m.
September 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
September 10 Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm

Saint of the Week

The Holy Apostle Matthias — Aug. 9

The Holy Apostle Matthias was born at Bethlehem of the Tribe of Judah. From his early childhood he studied the Law of God under the guidance of St Simeon the God-Receiver (February 3). When the Lord Jesus Christ revealed Himself to the world, St Matthias believed in Him as the Messiah, followed constantly after Him and was numbered among the Seventy Apostles, whom the Lord “sent them two by two before His face” (Luke 10:1). After the Ascension of the Savior, St Matthias was chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve Apostles (Acts 1:15-26). After the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Matthias preached the Gospel at Jerusalem and in Judea together with the other Apostles (Acts 6:2, 8:14). From Jerusalem he went with the Apostles Peter and Andrew to Syrian Antioch, and was in the Cappadocian city of Tianum and Sinope.

Here the Apostle Matthias was locked into prison, from which he was miraculously freed by St Andrew the First-Called. The Apostle Matthias journeyed after this to Amasea, a city on the shore of the sea. During a three-year journey of the Apostle Andrew, St Matthias was with him at Edessa and Sebaste. Once, pagans forced the saint to drink a poison potion. He drank it, and not only did he himself remain unharmed, but he also healed other prisoners who had been blinded by the potion. The Apostle Matthias returned to Judea and did not cease to enlighten his countrymen with the light of Christ's teachings. He worked great miracles in the Name of the Lord Jesus and he converted a great many to faith in Christ. The Jewish High Priest Ananias hated Christ and uttered a speech in which he blasphemously slandered the Lord. Using the prophecies of the Old Testament, the Apostle Matthias demonstrated that Jesus Christ is the True God, the promised Messiah, the Son of God, Consubstantial and Coeternal with God the Father. After these words the Apostle Matthias was sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin and stoned. The Apostle Matthias received the martyr's crown of glory in the year 63.



General Announcements

CONTINUING THE PENITENTIAL PERIOD IN PREPARATION FOR THE DORMITION

FEAST — During this fourteen-day penitential period, the Church prescribes the Paraklis Service be held in honor of the mother of God. The word “Paraklis” has two different meanings: the first is “consolation,” from which the Holy Spirit is called the “Paraclete,” or “Consoler;” the second is “supplication” or “petition.” The Paraklis Service consists of supplication hymns to obtain consolation and courage. It should be recited in times of temptation, discouragement, or sickness.

It is used more particularly during the two weeks before the Dormition of the Theotokos, from **August 1 to August 14**. The theme of this Paraklis Services centers around the petition. “Most Holy Mother of God, save us.” *Following each of the daily Divine Liturgies we will offer a portion of this service for all our family, relatives and friends who have left our church so that they may return for the sake of their salvation.*



LAST DAY OF THE 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 ends today, August 6**. For additional information, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.

BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS IN TWO WEEKS — Following



each of the Divine Liturgies **on the weekend of August 19 & 20, 2023** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the actual and/or virtual Academic Year of 2020-2021 in their various schools, colleges, and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing comes the third weekend of August. Receive God's blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy. **There is a RSVP for both teachers & students via phone call, or email if you plan to participate in this blessing by August 15.**

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS UNTIL ANNOUNCED — Until the 2024 Ecclesiastical Record Book arrives, the Church office will not be accepting intentions. An announcement will be appearing in a future edition of the S.O.T. when you may begin reserving your special date requests. Thank you for your patience.