

Parish Offerings – 14th Sunday after Pentecost — Sept. 10, 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 (\$3,810) YP (\$12)	\$3,822.00
Holy Days (\$125) YP (\$2)	127.00
Special Donation (In mem of +Kenneth Shanta by Beverly Vento)	100.00
Votive Candles	96.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,045.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$639) YP (\$1)	\$640.00
Holy Days	30.00
Improvements	35.00
Votive Candles	65.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$770.50

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (38); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)

Labor Day Monday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (5)

Nativity of the Theotokos, Sept. 8 — (MR) 9:00 am (4); (NS) 6:00 pm (21)



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
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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!



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North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

September 10, 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!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

September 10, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 37



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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos
& Sunday Before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 10 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Onesi + Frank T. Firko, Jr. + Frank Firko, Sr.
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. Valeriano & Kallop Families
(12th ann of passing 9/15)

Mon, Sept 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention Angie & Mike Kendrach
for: Traci & Jacob Gasser (2nd Wed. Ann. 9/10)

Final Day of the Theotokos Nativity Feast

Tues, Sept 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alexander Zubritzky Children

Prefestive of the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

Wed, Sept 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + James Lesczynski (1st ann of pass) Zula Family

Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) or an



Equivalent Penance — Solemn Holy Day

Thrs, Sept 14 * 8:50 a.m. (MR) + Rose Debranski (19th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy
* 5:50 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

* Commences 10 minutes earlier for Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross

Fri, Sept 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + David P. Bubalo (2nd ann of pass 9/13) Puluka & Family

Sat, Sept 16 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost — Sun. after Elevation

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Thanksgiving (Wed. Ann) Christine & Al Barnash

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday After the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 17 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Christine A. Michalish (birthday). Husband: Wallace & Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) Special Intention Barbara "Babs" Mowery

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 11 – Donna Herron, Katherine Leasure, JOHN NEWPORT; Sept 13 – Cynthia Anderson, Adam Leasure; Sept 14 – Derrick Burns; Sept 15 – Norma Kacsur, SHIRLEY KALNAS, Maryann Puluka; Sept 16 – MARY FRANCES SPONTAK.

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, 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.
BRIGHTON REHAB CENTER (246 Friendship Circle, Beaver, PA 15009): Kurt Marks.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why do we use our right hand instead of our left hand to make the sign of the cross? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The right hand, probably in part due to the fact that most people are right-handed, is traditionally the hand of blessing and greeting in many cultural settings, a convention found in Scripture and Tradition. For example, Jesus places the sheep on his right hand but the goats on his left; he himself is "seated at the right hand of the Father"; at God's "right hand are blessings forevermore"; and so on. In sacred images, Jesus is depicted raising his right hand in blessing. Even today, we use our right hand for handshakes or salutes; we are familiar with the phrase "the right hand of fellowship" and so forth. By contrast, the left hand has in many cultures a very different set of traditional associations (for example, it is often designated for personal hygiene; the word sinister is derived from the Latin for left-handed; etc.). For all these reasons, it is natural that the sign of the cross has traditionally been made with the right hand.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 10 — Sept. 16, 2023

(MR): In memory of Amelia M. Sotak (4th ann of passing 9/11)

offered by Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy

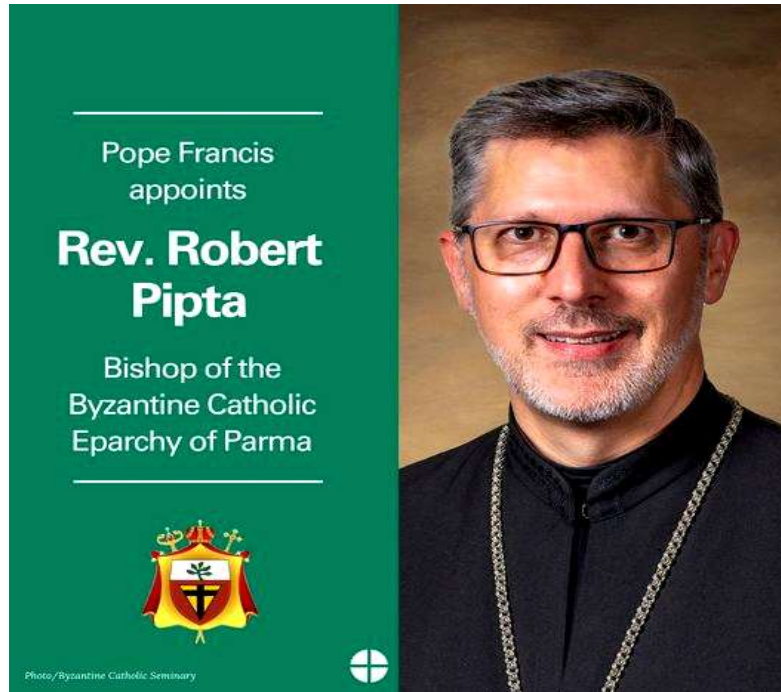
(NS): In memory of Leonard M. Kallop, Sr. (12th ann of pass 9/15)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2023

General Announcements



WASHINGTON - Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Robert M. Pipta as bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma. Bishop-elect Pipta is a priest of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, and currently serves as rector of Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **The appointment was publicized in Washington, D.C. on August 31, 2023**, by Monsignor Séamus P. Horgan, *chargé d'affaires, ad interim* at the apostolic nunciature in Washington, in the temporary absence of Cardinal-designate Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Father Pipta was born on April 7, 1967, in Anaheim, California. He studied at the University of California at Irvine (1985-1990) and earned a bachelor's degree in music. He attended the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1990-1994). He was ordained to the priesthood on April 21, 1994, for the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys. Bishop-elect Pipta's assignments after ordination include: parochial vicar at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Phoenix, Arizona (1994-1997); administrator of St. Garbiel Byzantine Catholic Church in Las Vegas, Nevada (1997-2004); and pastor at Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church in San Diego, California (2004-2014). Since 2014, Father Pipta has served as rector of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh. Bishop-elect Pipta has held numerous appointments within the eparchy: member of the Intereparchial and Eparchial Music and Liturgy Commissions (1994-present); ecclesiastical notary for the eparchy (1994-1997); a member of the advisory council for the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius (1998-2012); vocations director (1994-2014); member of the Eparchial Review Board (2008-2014); and the Eparchial College of Consultors (2008-2014). He has also served as director of an eparchial youth camp, "Eparchial Alive in Christ" (2003-2014).

The [Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma of the Ruthenians](#) ministers to 4,309 Byzantine Ruthenian Rite Catholics in the United States.

SUNDAY BEFORE THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

Gospel meditation: John 3:13-17 teaches that **Jesus:
Not a Man sent from God, but God come as Man**

The one aspect about Jesus that impressed the crowds (Mt. 7:28-29) and irritated the Jewish leaders (Mt. 91:23) was that He taught and acted with authority. The basic issue for a Pharisee like Nicodemus was the authority of Jesus. Nicodemus was willing to grant, by virtue of the signs performed by our Lord that Jesus was a man sent from God, but this was not nearly enough. Jesus was God sent as a man. Our Lord's heavenly origin set him apart from every other Israelite, even the great men such as Abraham, Moses and the prophets: "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of man!" (Jn 3:13). This is why Jesus was qualified to speak to Nicodemus of 'heavenly things' (v. 12)—He is the only one come down from heaven. He is the Son of Man. In my opinion, our Lord employed the term 'Son of Man' with reference to Himself with the specific intent of identifying Himself with the Messiah, referred to in Daniel 7:13 as the 'Son of Man. Neither Nicodemus nor anyone else can give sufficient heed to the words of our Lord Jesus, until they have come to grips with His person. He is God come as man. Once that is settled, men must heed His teaching.



Byzantine Catholics Transmit Ancient Christian Tradition

All Catholics originally made the Sign of the Cross like today's Byzantines

As we begin to celebrate the *Feast of the Elevation of the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord*, it is a good time to re-examine the way in which we bless ourselves. As is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we hold the thumb and first two fingers together signifying our belief in the Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The remaining two fingers are indicative of our belief of who Jesus is: God and man. These two figures are pressed into the palm reminding us that God came to earth and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Thus, when we make the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we begin by touching the forehead with the thumb and two fingers together while saying either "In the Name of the Father or Glory to the Father." Our action continues to move down below the heart (near the naval) signifying that the Son descended to earth to become man, to die and then resurrect from the dead. The movement then is directed to the right shoulder while saying "and to the Son" since He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of the Father. The gesture then goes across to the left shoulder while saying "and to the Holy Spirit. Amen." Historians seem to agree that this is the way Christians began signing themselves around the 8th and 9th centuries. The entirely true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the One Who was nailed to the Precious Cross. This action is indicated in the catechesis of **Pope Innocent III (1198-1216)** when delivering the following:



*"The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the **right to the left**, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left). Others, however, make the sign of the cross from the left to the right, because from misery (left) we must cross over to glory (right), just as Christ crossed over from death to life, and from Hades to Paradise. [Some priests] do it this way so that they and the people will be signing themselves in the same way. You can easily verify this — picture the priest facing the people for the blessing — when we make the sign of the cross over the people, it is from left to right."*

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 10 Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm
September 14 Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross (Solemn Holy Day)
Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes prior for the Solemn Enthronement of the Holy Cross — (MR) 8:45 a.m.; (NS) 5:45 p.m.
September 17 Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year
October 1 Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
October 15 **Deanery Pasta Dinner from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.**

Solemn Holy Day This Week – Sept. 14 Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross



Two events in connection with the Precious Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Holy Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Life-Creating Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land in the 4th century, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Precious Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarios told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the

dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zachariah saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.

**We bow (+) to Your Cross O Lord,
and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection!**

General Announcements

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MOUNT ST. MACRINA PILGRIMAGE — It is our prayer that you can join **the 89th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of the Theotokos under her precious title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from September 1 through the 4.** If you have never attended a pilgrimage before, you are encouraged to make this one which contains a myriad of graces. If you are experiencing any difficulties or problems, or just wish to thank God through Mary for an answered prayer, take them to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and lay them at her feet.



NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES — Our *Eastern Christian Formation* (E.C.F.) Classes will be commencing enrollment in the next few weeks. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration which follows all Divine Liturgies beginning next week. All classes begin on **Catechetical Sunday, September 17, 2023** following the Sunday morning (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Contact Coordinator, Subdeacon Luke Iyengar



(412) 863-3285.

AN ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS — If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), but are homebound, our pastor is more than willing to make a sacramental visitation to your residence. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact him. **Please phone the parish office (412) 771-3324** and set a time when Father may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS AND PRAYER ARE VITALLY ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul! He is looking forward hearing from you!



THE DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY RECORD BOOK FOR 2024 — The Record Book has arrived! Intentions for 2024 will commence to be taken on **Sunday, September 10, 2023.** Please do not submit your requests earlier than this commencement date. The book has to be setup prior to recording both Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp intentions. Thank you for your patience.



PRAISING AND THANKING GOD THROUGH OUR HOLY DAYS — As we marked the beginning of the new Church Year on September 1, we have the opportunity to renew the events of our salvation through all holy days. To praise and thank God for revealing His mercy to us with the promise of everlasting life, holy days remind us of each of these special salvific events. *Over the years, the attendance has been on the low side.* Show your love for God and His Church. The beauty of our Byzantine Catholic Church, emphasizes much solemnity by commemorating several salvific events in our holy days throughout the year other than the required Sundays.

