

Parish Offerings – 10th Sunday after Pentecost — August 6, 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 (\$3,260) YP (\$2)	\$3,262.00
Holy Days (\$304) YP (\$15)	319.00
Votive Candles	46.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,727.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$585.25
Holy Days (\$55) YP (\$1)	56.00
Improvements	25.00
Votive Candles	50.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$716.25

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (55); (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 11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 Final Day of the Transfiguration — Aug. 13, 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
 238 Helen St.,
 McKees Rocks, PA 15136
 Phone: (412) 331-9713
 Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP
// Serving Yours Since 1953

WHEN YOU CAN'T CONTROL
 WHAT IS HAPPENING
 AROUND YOU, CHALLENGE
 YOURSELF TO CONTROL
 THE WAY IN WHICH
 YOU RESPOND.

THAT IS WHERE
 YOUR TRUE POWER LIES.

DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 262-9141
 Nancde@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski
*Sewing, Alterations, Custom
 Embroidery and Unique Gifts*

GCU
 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

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!



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 13, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 33



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Final Day of the Transfiguration Feast

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

Prefestive of the Feast of the Domition of the Holy Theotokos

Mon, Aug 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy (birthday) Son: Kurt

Great Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition — Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 p.m. (MR) + Michele J. (Terrek) Chiavetta (4th ann of passing 8/11) Mom: Mildred & Family

Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

Holy Day of Obligation — Solemn Blessing Flowers and Herbs — Mirovanije

TUE, AUG 15 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary + Michael Korim (ann of passing) Nephew: Fr. Firko



Transposition of the Icon of Our Lord

Wed, Aug 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William J. Butler (40th day of passing 8/8) Sister: Judy & Ed Wovchko

Thrs, Aug 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Kenneth M. Shanta (birthday 8/9) Sister: Beverly Vento

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for the intention of the return of our family, relatives, friends, and parishioners

Fri, Aug 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Aaron Leshko (9th ann. of passing) Eleanor Gramata & George

Sat, Aug 19 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Postfestive of the Dormition Feast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Claudia C. Verner (birthday 8/22) Husband: George

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Dormition Feast — Blessing of Students & Teachers

SUN, Aug 20 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann A. Kohan (2nd ann of passing) Sister: Dolores & Ted Babin
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ann M. Lecci Mary Ann Smoley

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 16 – Janet Sendro; Aug 18 – Peter Zubritzky; Aug 19 – Anna Colbert; IRENE JUGAN.

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, Kurt Marks, 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 Cifrukak. 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. Does the Catholic Church allow birth control? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: One of the most awesome gifts God gave us is the ability to generate new life made in His image. Human beings (one male & one female) are co-creators with God in this process. Contraception deliberately thwarts this God-given gift by treating conception as an evil to be avoided. The sin of contraception may be committed by use of contraception pills, condoms, spermicides, physical or chemical “barriers,” sterilization, and other means. None of these are morally acceptable forms of family planning. On the other hand, there are morally acceptable means of “regulating births.” Natural Family Planning (NFP) uses the signs of a woman’s natural monthly cycle to determine fertility. God deigned the marital act with two inherent meanings. These meanings are “written into” the act itself. They are the “unitive” or person-uniting meaning (Gn. 2:24) and the “procreative” or person-begetting meaning (Gn. 1:28). These two meanings are interrelated and are intended by God to be present in every act of copulation.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 13 — August 19, 2023

(MR): In memory of Loretta & Andrew Yakubik (wed. ann.)

offered by Dgtr: Evelyn Yakubik

(NS): In memory of Edward Zotyak (7th ann of passing 8/11)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Wife: Florence

(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 next **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. **CORECTION:** Since the Tapsak-Wohar Families will be hosting the social that follows, it will be to their discretion if they wish all at the Ordination Ceremony to join them in the gym. This is a distinct honor for our Parish. Let us show support to Nathaniel as he continues his journey to the altar of God! Everyone is invited to the Ordination Ceremony. This Hierarchical Divine Liturgy fulfills the Sunday Obligation



North Side

THE BEHOLDER OF SPECIAL GRAPES — Following All Transfiguration Divine Liturgies last weekend, the traditional blessing of grapes and other fruits were blessed and distributed with the Mirovanije. Pictured is parishioner, Eliana Trapl who volunteered to hold the basket so that the parishioners could receive these special sacramentals and to take them to family relatives and friends to be recipients of Church's blessings. Thank you Eliana!

FRONT CHURCH STEPS WILL RECEIVE A TEMPORARY FIX — The price of masonry work is extremely expensive. Our church does not have the capital to allocate for this comprehensive and corrected task. However, in discussing the matter with our PAC/FAC members, it has been decided to accomplish a temporary repair which should get us through the upcoming winter season. Holes in the concrete, especially on the sidewalk must be filled to avoid any accidents by pedestrians. More information will be forth-coming. Please be careful when entering the walk to the Church.



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.



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forgiveness is NECESSARY to be Forgiven!

(Matthew 18: 23-35)

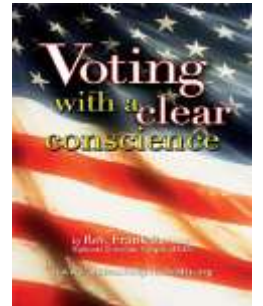
Unlimited forgiveness toward a brother or sister is illustrated by this parable. Sin is portrayed as a debt to God, a debt originated by neglecting God's will. Ten thousand talents as an impossible sum, more than a laborer could earn in all lifetime - is contrasted to a hundred denarii, equivalent to about a hundred days' wages. Just as the king shows mercy and severity toward the servant, so does God show love and strictness toward us depending on our willingness to forgive our brothers and sisters. The love of God is manifested in paying off the debt, a remission or letting go of sins. Because God forgives us, we in return are obliged to grant this gift of forgiveness to others. When each Christian forgives from his heart, true reconciliation and healing come to the Church by God's grace.



What are the 5 Non-Negotiables?

Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics — YOUR ROLE AS A CATHOLIC VOTER

For Catholics, some issues concern “non-negotiable” moral principles on which there is no exception or compromise. There are numerous non-negotiable issues, but five of them are currently “in-play” politically in the United States. These five intrinsically evil actions are those that fundamentally conflict with the moral law and can never be performed under any circumstances. It is a serious sin to deliberately endorse or promote any of these actions, and citizens support these evils if they vote for candidates who do so. So, what are these five non-negotiables? **Abortion:** The Church teaches that, regarding a law permitting abortions, it is “never licit to obey it, or to take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law, or to vote for it.” (EV 73) **Euthanasia:** Often disguised by the name “mercy killing,” euthanasia is actually a form of homicide. “True compassion cannot include intentionally doing something intrinsically evil to another person.” (EV 73). **Embryonic Stem Cell Research:** Human embryos are human beings. “Respect for the dignity of the human being excludes all experimentation or exploitation of the human embryo.” (CRF 4b). **Human Cloning:** Such attempts to create a human being “are to be considered contrary to the moral law, since they are in opposition to the dignity both of human procreation and of the conjugal union.” (RHL I:6). **Homosexual “Marriage”:** It is an objectively immoral arrangement, and “the Catholic lawmaker has a moral duty to express his opposition clearly and publicly and to vote against it. To vote in favor ... is gravely immoral.” (UHP 10).



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 Archdiocesan Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm

Commemoration of the Week

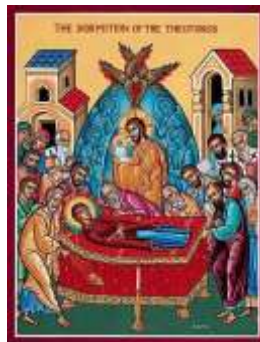
The Transposition of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople – Aug 16

During the time of the earthly ministry of the Savior, Abgar, ruler in the Syrian city of Edessa, was afflicted with leprosy. Reports of the great miracles performed by the Lord extended throughout Syria (Matt. 4:24) and as far as Arabia at this time. Although not having seen the Lord, Abgar believed in him and wrote a letter requesting Christ to come and heal him. Abgar sent his court painter, Ananias, with this letter to Palestine telling him to paint an image of the Divine Teacher. Ananias was not able to go near Christ because of the great many people listening to his preaching. He attempted to produce an image of the Lord Jesus Christ from afar, but could not. The Lord called Ananias and promised to send his disciple in order to heal Abgar from the leprosy and instruct him in salvation. Then the Lord called for water and a towel. He wiped His face with the towel, and on it was His Divine Image. The Savior sent the towel and a letter to Edessa back with Ananias. With thanksgiving Abgar received the sacred objects and started healing. He continued healing until the arrival of the disciple Thaddeus, Apostle of the 70. The Apostle preached the Gospel and baptized the Abgar and all living in Edessa. Having written on the Image Not-Made-By-Hands the words, Christ-God, everyone trusting in Thee will not be put to shame, Abgar adorned it and placing it over gates of the city. For many years it was venerated by those who passed through the gates. Edessa, a great-grandson of Abgar, fell into idolatry and was determined to remove the image. In a vision, the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to conceal the image. The bishop and his clergy at night, blocked up the niche with clay tablets and bricks inclosing with it a lit lampada. Many years passed by and the inhabitants forgot about the Holy Object. In the year 545, the Persian King Chroses I, besieged Edessa, and all seemed hopeless. But Bishop Eulavios was commanded by a vision of the Theotokos to get from the enclosed niche the image with which to save the city from the adversaries. Dismantling the niche, the Bishop found the Holy Image; before it burned the lampada and on the clay tablets, with which the niche had been enclosed, was a similar image. After preceding with the Cross and the Image Not-Made-By-Hands around the walls of the city, the Persian army miraculously departed. In 630, Edessa was seized by Arabs; but they did not hinder veneration of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. In 944 the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (912-59) requested that the Image be brought to the Capital. With great honor the Image of the Savior Not-Made-By-Hands was brought by the clergy to Constantinople. On **August 16** the Image of the Savior was placed in the Pharos Church of the Most-Holy Theotokos. There are several traditions concerning the fate of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. One is that it was carried away by Crusaders during the time of their dominion over Constantinople (1204-61), but the ship on which Holy Objects had been taken, sank in the Sea of Marmora. Another is that the Image Not-Made-By-Hands was taken about 1362 to Genoa, where it was presented to and preserved in a monastery dedicated to the Apostle Bartholomew.



General Announcements

OBLIGATORY HOLY DAY THIS WEEK — Tuesday, Aug. 15, we will be celebrating the **Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Mother of God,, and her Glorious Assumption into Heaven.** It is the most ancient Marian Feast of the Church. It is customary to bless flowers and herbs on this day. This custom of the Church arose when the Holy Theotokos fell-asleep on Mount Zion and of the apostles were miraculously transported back to Jerusalem with the exception of St. Thomas. Following the funeral procession along the Kidron Valley to the Gethsemane tomb, they returned to Mount Zion. Thomas later arrived and urged the apostles to take him to view and pray before the mortal remains. When then arrived at the tomb an aromatic fragrance of flowers and herbs filled the air near the spot when they laid her. Her most pure body was no longer present. Receiving a vision that she was transferred to heaven, the apostles rejoiced and strengthened to proclaim the Good News of her beloved Son, Jesus. Following the Divine Liturgies flowers and herbs will be solemnly blessed as a thanksgiving offering. *Since flowers symbolize the beauty of Eternal Life, and herbs a healing remedy for the body, you may wish to take a blessed flower and place it on the grave(s) of your loved one(s) as a symbol of faith and a prayer that they may be resting in the eternal Kingdom of heaven. Bring flowers and herbs for this special blessing!* Check the liturgical page for the times of the Divine Liturgies.



BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS NEXT WEEKEND — Following each of the Divine Liturgies **next weekend August 19-20, 2023** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the Academic Year of 2023-2024 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 would like to receive a small gift at this blessing by August 15.

A NOTE FROM VA FISHER HOUSE COORDINATOR — *My husband, David and I delivered the donations to the Pittsburgh VA Fisher House this past week. They wanted to thank us so much for our continuing support. Again, we collect and deliver at a most needed time. They only had a few snack items left in their cupboard, out of coffee today and in need of all the paper and cleaning supplies. So again, I would like to thank everyone from Holy Ghost MR, Holy Ghost NS and St. Andrew's on a huge success for supporting our efforts to help the families of our veterans a bit less stressed. — Tina Burns, parishioner & FH Coordinator.*



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 so much for your patience and consideration.