

Parish Offerings – 1st Ecumenical Council Sunday — May 21, 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 (\$1,946) YP (\$7)	\$1,953.00
Holy Days (\$441) YP (\$3) Easter (\$100)	544.00
Seminary	50.00
Votive Candles	141.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,688.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$337) YP (\$1)	\$338.00
Holy Days	25.00
Utilities (\$25) Improvements (\$10.00)	35.00
Votive Candles	52.01

Church Attendance Last Week \$450.01

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (27)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (60); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast Day — Rusalja

May 28, 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

Valerian F. Szal
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McKees Rocks, PA 15136
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



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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.

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

WRIGHT 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 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

Behold, we celebrate today the Feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of the promise and the realization of hope. How wonderful and awesome is this great mystery! Therefore, O Lord and Creator of all, we cry out: Glory to You! (Great Vespers of Pentecost)

May 28, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 22



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT			
Pentecost Sunday – Patronal Feast — Mirovanije — Memorial Weekend			
SUN, May 28	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Eleanor Kulka (10 th ann of passing 5/26)	Children: Kathy & John.
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Margaret (Peg) Krulac (7 th ann of pass 5/22)	Dgr: Barb & Peter Stecko
Vigil for Pentecost Monday — 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Dolores Hudanick Children: Geo., Paul & Janet			

Memorial Day Observed — No Banking Service or Postal Delivery

PENTECOST MONDAY - FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY – SIMPLE HOLY DAY

Procession to the four corners of the Church proclaiming the Gospel

Traditional NO FASTING/ABSTINANCE this week in the Joy of the coming of the Holy Spirit

Mon, May 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For All Who Died in the Service of Our Country

Tue, May 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving
(46th ann. of Priesthood Ordination 5/22)  Fr. Firko

Wed, May 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores Kurtanich (birthday) Anonymous

Thrs, Jun 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marian McHugh Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

First Friday of the Month — Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

NO FASTING/ABSTINANCE this week in the Joy of the coming of the Holy Spirit

Fri, Jun 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia + Frank T. Firko (wed. ann. 6/10) Firko Family

First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sat, Jun 3 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Farabaugh (birthday 6/4) Dgr: Marianne

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of All Saints – First Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS



1st Sunday after Pentecost — Final Day of Easter Duty

SUN, Jun 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + George Skalyo Joyce & James Walsh

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ann M. Lecci Son: Jen, Nancy & Nina

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 31 – LESLIE MARIE BODNARCHUK, Doris Naughton; **Jun 1** – Barbara Boris, Isabelle Wenger; **Jun 2** – Katherine Chomko.

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. Mark states that blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin. Is this held true in the Catholic Faith? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** First we must define what is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The Catechism states: "Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven." There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss (CCC 1864). Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is to refuse God's mercy. It is a refusal to repent of sin. God does not bring anyone into his kingdom against his/her will. Human persons have the ability to reject God's mercy and refuse forgiveness of sins which leads to eternal separation from God.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 28 — June 3, 2023

(MR): **In memory of Amelia & Frank T. Firko**

offered by Family

(NS): **In memory of Margaret (Peg) Krulac (7th ann of passing 5/22)**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023 offered by Dgr: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR RETIRES FROM PROGRAM —



For well over a decade, Steve Puluka, coordinated our Eastern Christian Formation Program (E.C.F.) has decided to ease into retirement His dedication and untiring commitment enabled our religious education to continue year after year enabling our younger members to learn the Catholic Faith and Byzantine Rite. We are most grateful for his sacrificial and preserving efforts. Steve will continue to lead the singing ministry at Holy Ghost Church. Thank you, Steve, for being there when we needed you! May God grant you many happy and blessed years. Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

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.

The Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit From the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)



Do not Forget to Wear GREEN Again Next Weekend for All Saints Sunday!

The 3-Bar Glorified Cross Is turned back to the Crucified Cross on the Feast of Pentecost.

PENTECOST SUNDAY — RUSALJA

Old & New Law Explanation of the Pentecost Celebration

In the Old Testament, Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. In the new covenant of the Messiah, the New Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples of Christ.



The Divine Liturgy of Pentecost recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the Psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the Divine Liturgy. The Epistle and Gospel proclamation tells of the Spirit's coming to men. The Kondakion sings of the reversal of the Tower of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The Troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God's net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns "O Heavenly King" and "We have seen the True Light" are sung for the first time prior to Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to "come and dwell in us", and proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit." The church is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God's Divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the "Life-Creating Spirit." In Hebrew the word for Spirit, breath and wind is the same word, ruah. *The figure below the icon is called The Cosmos who represents the world holding the good news that the Holy Apostles who were mandated to spread to all inhabitants of the earth.*

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

The first day of the Pentecost Postfestive commemorates the unity of the Holy Trinity's role in our salvation. God the **FATHER** sent His Only-Begotten Son to save mankind; God the **SON** redeemed mankind by His death upon the Cross and rose from the dead; and God the **HOLY SPIRIT** sanctifies mankind pouring out His Gifts and Fruits upon all who approach Him in faith, reverence and devotion. Let us pause by participating in the Divine Liturgy rendering humble and heart-felt thanks for all that the Triune God has done and continues to do for us leading us to salvation!



One Week Remaining to fulfill Your Easter Duty!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
June 5	Commencement of the Minor Petrine Fast (Church Slavonic: Petrovka).
June 12	(MR) PAC/FAC Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
June 14	Annual Flag Day Ceremony @ 6:45 p.m.

Saints of the Week

Martyr Lucillian and those who suffered with him at Byzantium — June 3

Saint Lucillian was a pagan priest during the reign of the Roman emperor Aurelian (270-275). In his old age he became persuaded of the falseness of the pagan religion, and with



all his heart he turned to the faith in Christ the Savior, and was baptized. Under the influence of his preaching many pagans were converted to Christianity. Then certain Jews, seeing that he was spreading faith in Christ Whom they crucified, reported Lucillian to the Nicomedia prefect Silvanus, who urged the old man to return to idol-worship. When he refused, they smashed the saint's jawbone, beat him with rods and suspended him head downward, and then they locked him in prison. Here he met four youths who were confessors of Christianity: **Claudius, Hypatius, Paul and Dionysius**. Saint Lucillian urged them to stand firm in the Faith, and to fear neither tortures nor death. After a while they brought them to trial and then threw them into a red-hot furnace. Suddenly, rain fell and extinguished the flames, and the martyrs

remained unharmed. The governor sentenced them to death, sending them to Byzantium to be executed. The holy youths were beheaded by the sword, and the holy martyr Lucillian was nailed to a cross with many nails. The **holy virgin-martyr Paula** witnessed the contest of the holy martyrs. She had dedicated herself to the service of those suffering for Christ. She provided food to Christian prisoners, washed their wounds, brought medications, and buried the bodies of martyrs. After the death of Saint Lucillian and the four young men, she returned to Nicomedia and continued with her holy service. The holy virgin was arrested and cast into a furnace, but by the power of God she remained unharmed. Then they sent her off to Byzantium, where the holy martyr was beheaded.

Happy Parish Feast Day Holy Ghost Church

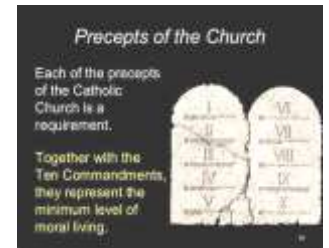
General Announcements

THE GREEN HOLY DAYS AND KNEELING PRAYERS — The Holy Feast of Pentecost was popularly called **RUSALJA** by the Ruthenian (Rusyn) people who were the founders and benefactors of our parishes. Prior to the missionary efforts of Saints Cyril & Methodius (9th century), the pagan Slavs embraced Rusalja (the god of new spring and budding nature) and held a festival during this time of the year. Decoration from various greens, and **LINDEN** (lipa) branches were predominantly used. Following their conversion to Christianity, the Church retain the idea of green decorations in Church and at the door entrance of their homes, seeing and celebrating in them the symbol of NEW LIFE that the



Holy Spirit brought forth on Pentecost Sunday. The week of Pentecost was also referred to as the GREEN HOLY DAYS (želeni svjata). *Let us glorify the Holy Spirit, Who brings LIGHT & LIFE, by wearing something GREEN throughout the week, and at next weekend's Divine Liturgy of All Saints!*

NEXT WEEKEND — LAST DAY TO FULFILL EASTER DUTY — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED to sacramentally CONFESS their Mortal Sins and to receive the Divine Eucharist during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). This is traditionally known as the EASTER DUTY. Voluntary neglect of this Church precept is a serious (mortal) sin. Not only does it prohibit one from receiving the Eucharist, but also makes one ineligible to stand as Godparent/Sponsor at the Holy Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism/Chrismation/Eucharist). Please take care of this responsibility with Confession of Serious Sins & a Holy and Worthy Reception of Holy Communion A.S.A.P.



OUR HOLY GHOST GRADUATES AND THEIR PLANS — Our Holy Ghost Graduates for 2023 are: **HIGH SCHOOL – (MR) LAURA CHRISTINE SABER**, Moon Area High School, who will be attending University of Pittsburgh persuing a carrer in Pharmacy; she was enrolled in the Holy Ghost St. Aquilina **(MR) UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE – KATHERINE CHOMKO**, Penn State University, State College, PA with a Master's Degree in Accounting, and a Minor in Music Performance with a focus on violin. She graduated Magna Cum Laude (with high honors). She will

commence working for PricewaterhouseCoppers, Pittsburgh in September as an External Audit Associate; **(MR) SUBDEACON LUKE R. IYENGAR**, graduated from Saints Cyril and Methodius with a Master's of Divinity (MDiv.) Summa Cum Laude (with highest honors). He has completed his education and formation for the priesthood and will be taking time to serve the parish, see employment and to discern marriage prior to continuing toward the Diaconate and Priesthood. May God grant to our graduates' health, happiness, and success for many blessed years!

