

**Parish Offerings – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — July 23, 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 (\$1,805) YP (\$23) .....	\$1,828.00
Holy Days (\$191) YP (\$4) .....	195.00
Votive Candles .....	104.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,127.50

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$927) YP (\$1) .....	\$928.00
Holy Days .....	15.00
Utilities .....	65.00
Votive Candles .....	38.50

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$1,046.50

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (50); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**July 30, 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**

**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
Fax: (412) 331-6688  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
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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!**

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

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).

July 30, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 31



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**SUN, Jul 30** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Joyce Buchko Sister: Peggy & Chuck McCusker  
(10<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 7/18)  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Dolores Hudanick Children: George, Paul & Janet  
(1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 7/24)

Mon, Jul 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + H. Jayne Skreptach Joan & Tony DiVito

Commencement of the 14-day Savorial Fast (Spasovka) cf. article

Tue, Aug 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Sister: Regina  
of Fredric Mell

**RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**  
for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church

Wed, Aug 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores Kosko Marge & + James Lautenschlager

Thrs, Aug 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Laura + Robert Kundrat Theresa Kundrat

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

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**

Fri, Aug 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Sr. Vladimir, O.S.B.M. MaryEllen & John Oslick  
(7<sup>th</sup> ann. of passing)

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

Sat, Aug 5 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – Transfiguration Feast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Irene Bilak Dgtr: Leyte, Mike & Michael  
(15<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/11)

### 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Transfiguration — Solemn Blessing of Grapes & Fruits

**SUN, Aug 6** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna Bilak & Tomchak Families  
(4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/2)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary (Kost) Sahayda Family

# 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 3 – Olga Margaret Stashkevych; Aug 4 – Bernice Herrick;

Aug 5 – Peter Stecko, Judy 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, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, 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.** How can I be less hypocritical? I know what Jesus says and what I believe but I often go against these beliefs. **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** So, does almost everyone in the world. SS. Peter & Paul and every saint in history (with the exception of Mary), struggle with this very problem (Rom 7:15-25). Here are some practical tips that will help you in this struggle: (1) Knowledge is power. If you know your faith, you will know more about how to fight the devil and the temptation to sin (1Peter 5:8-9; CCC 409); (2) Read the lives of the saints. These men and women have been where you are now, and their heroic example will inspire you (Phil 4:9); (3) Live a sacramental life. Attend the Divine Liturgy more than just on Sunday & Holy Days, pray the rosary, and go to Confession frequently, especially if you have sinned seriously (Heb 10:25; 1 Thess 5:17; CCC 1127, 1129). And (4) In prayer ask Jesus for guidance (Mt 7:7)

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**July 30 — Aug 5, 2023**

(MR): **In memory of Robert Kundrat**

offered by Mom: Theresa

(NS): **In memory of Mike Seman, Jr.**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Sister: Velma

(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 August 6<sup>th</sup>.** This is a distinct honor for our Parish. Let us show support to Nathaniel as he continues his journey to the altar of God!



**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 next Sunday'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."*



## Prayer for Daily Neglects

(A Poor Clare Nun who had just passed away appeared to her Abbess, who was praying for her, and said, "I went straight to heaven, for, by means of this prayer, recited every evening, I paid my debts.") This prayer is not meant to replace Confession.

- (1) Eternal Father, I offer You the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with all its love, and its sufferings and all its merits **to expiate all the sins that I have committed this day and during my entire life.** Glory to the Father and to the Son (+) and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
- (2) Eternal Father, I offer You the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with all its love, and its sufferings and all its merits **to purify the good that I have done badly this day and during my entire life.** Glory to the Father and to the Son (+) and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
- (3) Eternal Father, I offer You the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with all its love, and its sufferings and all its merits **to supply for the good that I ought to have done, and that I neglected this day and during my entire life.** Glory to the Father and to the Son (+) and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.



## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Faith is measured by doing what He asks (Matthew 14:22-34)

Jesus said get out of the boat. Jesus told Peter he had little faith because he began thinking about the storm and doubted. How much faith did those who never got out of the boat have? Jesus is telling us to get out of the boat. Afraid of terrorists? Get out of the boat. Afraid to talk to your teenager? Get out of the boat. Talk to them anyway. Afraid of what people will think if you lead? Get out of the boat. Lead anyway. Have faith that people will follow. Getting out of the boat is taking the next step. Has God called you to do the impossible? Start! Get out of the boat! He will not leave you stranded. If He's given you the job, He'll give you the tools to get it done. If He has not, you will find out sooner if you get out of the boat. Step out in faith. Refuse to be frozen in fear; of failure, of what people think, of opposition. Think about this...Peter failed at walking on water. He began to sink. But Jesus was right there to pull him up. He will be there for us, too. It was not being right that made Peter the one Jesus chose to carry on after Him. Peter was wrong much of the time, sometimes in very embarrassing ways. It was not his fearlessness. He denied Jesus at a crucial moment. It was not his careful, diplomatic use of words, he blurted out some of the most foolish things. What was it? Peter was willing to get out of the boat. Let us not be frozen in fear, but in faith, act.



### DO NOT SUBMIT TO CASUAL CLOTHING FOR CHURCH

(The following is an abridged article taken from the Catholic Answers web-page. It is written by Catholic Apologist, Peggy Frye. It is offered here as a means of reflection.)

What do you wear to Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy)? Sadly, seeing super-casual attire at Mass (Divine Liturgy) is all too common. Many who attend look like they are ready for the beach .... It is not just the women who dress inappropriately at Mass (Divine Liturgy). Men need to be checked too .... **Immodest dress at Mass (Divine Liturgy) is not a comfort problem but a spiritual problem, rooted in an over-sexed culture whose fashion influences have been trickling down into our parishes for decades.** The mentality that "It's nobody's business what I wear for Mass (Divine Liturgy) — God knows my heart" reflects a lack of humility and a poor understanding of what is happening at Mass (Divine Liturgy). It also shows a lack of respect for others, disregarding how our immodest dress can become an occasion of sin for the opposite sex. Church is "a house of prayer in which the Eucharist is celebrated and reserved, where the faithful assemble, and where is worshipped the presence of the Son of God our Savior, offered for us on the sacrificial altar for the help and consolation of the faithful" (CCC 1181). Church is not a place where temptation and sin should abound, where sexual distractions should be permitted to compete with our Lord who is present in the sacrament of the altar. When we pray the Lord's Prayer at Mass (Divine Liturgy) we say, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." So, why are we allowing carnal temptations to be openly present? Why are we giving the Evil One permission to prowl throughout our sacred places seeking the ruin of innocent souls? Immodest dress appeals to the flesh .... I do not believe "modesty custodians" of the type found at some churches in Rome should be stationed at the door of every Catholic church, turning people away if they do not comply with the parish dress code. Nor do I believe that women should come to church dressed like they came right off the set of *Little House on the Prairie*, or that men should wear tuxedos to Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy). We just need to use common sense when we dress for church.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 1-14	Commencement of the Savioral Fast.
August 5	Anticipated Sunday & Transfiguration DL w/ the blessing of fruits & grapes.
August 6	Sunday & Transfiguration DL w/ the blessing of fruits and grapes at both Parishes.
August 14	<b>Holy Day of Obligation</b> — 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 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 2-3	87 <sup>th</sup> 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 — August 5

### The Holy Martyr Eusignius of Antioch

The Martyr Eusignius was born at Antioch in the mid-third century. For sixty years he served in the Roman armies of the emperors Diocletian, Maximian Hercules, Constantius Chlorus, Constantine the Great and his sons. Saint Eusignius was a companion of Saint Basiliscus (March 3 and May 22), and he provided an account of his martyrdom. At the beginning of the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, Saint Eusignius was a witness to the appearance of the Cross in the sky, a prediction of victory. Saint Eusignius retired in his old age from military service and returned to his own country. **There he spent his time in prayer, fasting, and attending the church of God.** So, he lived until the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363), who yearned for a return to



paganism. During the time of Julian, two men who were arguing on the street asked him to be their judge. He dispensed justice to the correct one and the man at fault became angry and went to the emperor and accused Eusignius of being a Christian. The emperor summoned Eusignius to court but he strongly denounced the emperor for his apostasy from the Faith and reproached him with the shining example of Constantine the Great. Saint Eusignius stood trial as a Christian before the emperor Julian in the year 362. He fearlessly accused the emperor of apostasy from Christ, and reproached him with the example of his relative, Constantine the Great, and he described in detail how he himself had been an eyewitness to the appearance of the sign of the Cross in the sky. Julian did not spare the aged Saint Eusignius, then 110 years old, but ordered him beheaded.

## General Announcements

**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.*



**PLEASE BRING A FRUIT BASKET TO NEXT WEEKEND'S DIVINE LITURGY** — Next Sunday is the Feast of Our Lord's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. As is customary on this Solemn Holy Day, ***Grapes and other fruits of the summer harvest will be 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.*** Please avail yourself to this blessing even if it be a small basket.



**HOLY GHOST CHURCHES CONTINUE WITH 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 that will extend to next Sunday, August 6**. For additional information, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.



**FUN AT THE PARISH PICNIC LAST WEEK** — It was a beautiful day at last Sunday's Parish Picnic. This was an ‘old fashion style gathering at Clever Park underneath the large picnic shelter. There was plenty of food and games for the young and the adults for the entire afternoon. We are grateful to those who organized the event: Staff: Norma Kacsur, Regina Mell, Judy Wovchko, and all that worked with them. Hanlon's Catering was contracted to provide the hotdogs, hamburgers, cheezie potatoes, and for giving us a great discounted price including the paper plates and plasticware. Thank you to Ed Wovchko for providing the music. Also, a special thank you to John Wovchko for reserving the shelter all the way back in January. God bless all of you for making this day a memorable one.

