

Parish Offerings – 25th Sunday after Pentecost — Nov. 19, 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 (\$1,829) YP (\$12)	\$1,841.00
Holy Days (\$135) Thanksgiving (\$50)	185.00
Archdiocesan Charities (\$25) Bakeless Bake Sale (\$20)	45.00
Votive Candles (\$155) Coffee Social (\$7)	162.00
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	\$2,233.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$687) YP (\$1)	\$688.00
Holy Days (\$60) Thanksgiving (\$115)	175.00
Improvements (\$20) Archdiocesan Charities (\$10)	30.00
Votive Candles (\$101) Bakeless Bake Sale (\$250)	351.00
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Church Attendance Last Week \$1,244.00

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (34)

9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)

Entrance of Theotokos into Temple — (MR) Tuesday 9:00 a.m. (12); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (13)

Thanksgiving Day — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (22)

Thank You God
for everything in my life.
The good & bad.
Some were
Blessings
& some were
Lessons! 😊

No School!
Happy Thanksgiving!



Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
Phone: (412) 331-9713

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Servina Yours Since 1953



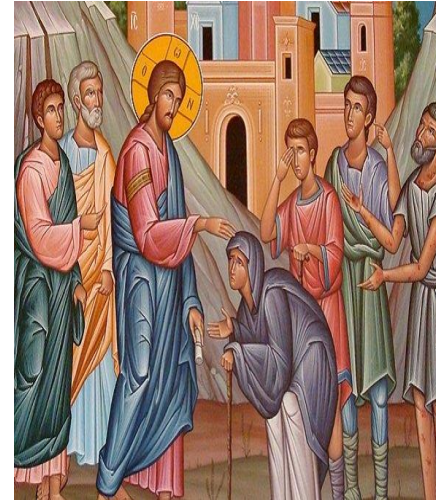
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2nd Sunday of Philippian Fast — Nov. 26, 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.

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!



GCU offers Insurance and Annuity
Benefits greater than most financial
institutions. Info call Randy
(412) 973-1085



Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172370

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).

November 26, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 48



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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

26th Sunday after Pentecost

2nd Sunday of the Philipian Fast

SUN., Nov 26 (12) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Dan Pikras Son: Dino & Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + George Fecik (1st ann of passing 11/30) Anonymous
Mon, Nov 27 (13) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(38th ann of passing 11/26)
Tue, Nov 28 (14) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving Tomchak Family

The Philipian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

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

for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Wed, Nov 29 (15) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Kenneth M. Shanta Sister: Beverly Vento

The Holy & Glorious Apostle Andrew, the First-Called

Thrs, Nov 30 (16) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Martha Lucas (3rd ann of passing 11/24) Anonymous

. First Friday of the Month —Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus
The Old Testament Prophet Nahum

Fri, Dec 1 (17) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Jeanette + Alexander Zubritzky Children

First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary
The Old Testament Prophet Habakkuk

Sat, Dec 2 (18) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary (Danks) Sisak Michael B. Sisak Family

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) Health & Welfare (Birthday) Kurt Perschy

27th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd Sunday of the Philipian Fast

SUN., Dec 3 (12) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Daniel J. Galida (11th ann of passing 11/30) Sister: Kathy L. Mullen

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

Nov 27 — DIANE LASKO; Nov 29 – Leonora Haffly; Nov 30 – Paul Rubish, Jr.;
Dec 2 – ALEXANDER HELMS, Kurt Perschy.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Elizabeth Poznak, 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. Mildred Terrek.
LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is the penitent bound by the seal of confession? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: No, a penitent is not bound by the seal of confession. One should be prudent when discussing one's sins, but it's possible another person might benefit from the advice a penitent received in confession. A priest who celebrates the sacrament or anyone who deliberately or inadvertently hears a confession is bound to uphold the seal. In addition, while a priest may not break the seal, if a penitent brings up the same subject outside of confession, then the priest could prudently talk about that conversation. But the seal remains even after a penitent's death.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 26 — December 2, 2023

(MR): In memory of Diane Charles

offered by Elaine Kurtanich & Karen Stebbins

(NS): In memory of Michael Sotak, Jr.

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Wife: Jane

(NS) AVAILABLE 2024

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUES THIS WEEK — Here are the remaining Friday sale



dates: Dec 1, 8 & 15. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, or by phoning on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. Eat-ins are welcomed. We could still use additional help, especially pinchers

ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR AREA LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN — GCU

Pittsburgh Northwest Lodge is, once again, holding a fraternal activity to help area children who may not be getting much for Christmas this year. This project is the ANGEL TREE located near the elevator in the side vestibule. Over the years, they really went fast! If you would like to participate and make a child's Christmas a little brighter this year you are asked to take an angel from the tree. It will have a child's age listed on the back. You are asked to purchase a gift and bring it back to the tree **UNWRAPPED with the angel taped on it** no later than **next Sunday, December 3.** Holy Family Social Services and Family Foundation will distribute these gifts to the children in time for Christmas. Let's send this entire tree of angels in the form of gifts to these under-privileged children. You may call to make a donation to the project and we will do the shopping in your name. **Call Barb Stecko (412) 334-8245. Only a few remaining.**



North Side

BAKELESS BAKE SALE & 50/50 RAFFLE TODAY — If you wish to contribute to the Bakeless Bake Sale, place your donation in a white envelope with your name, envelope number, and amount. Both Churches will be credited on your donation statement for tax purposes. Both the Raffle and Bakeless Bake Sale will terminate today, **Sunday, November 26, the day the drawing will take place.** The proceeds will be



applied to our *Tower Bell Project.*

NEW SIGN IDENTIFIES THE CHURCH TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD — After much



deliberation at the Parish Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting, it was determined that a sign be made and display our identity to all passersby. Anonymous individuals made a donation covering the cost in memory of their family members. This sign is a silent and constant way to affect the Spirit of Ecumenism letting all know that the Lord Jesus invites all people to Himself and to the Church which He founded on the Rock of St. Peter. Thank you to those who made this work a reality!

Meditation on Today's Gospel

Sanctify the Lord's Day by good works not Selfish Acts

Luke 13:10-17

There are a number of important points to keep in mind about the sanctification of the Lord's Day. God's commandment prescribes the sanctification of the whole day. We need to



keep this in mind in our times when so many people feel that all we have to do is go to church for one hour on Sunday and rest of the day belongs to us. **WRONG!** ... The whole day is the Lord's Day. It belongs to Him! How do we keep it holy? It is a day of rest when people should put away their tools of labor. But it doesn't mean that people should be lazy or slothful because that too is a sin. Besides going to church it can be a time for visiting, or going to see the sick. To heal their bent spirits by lifting them up by our visitation. It should be a day for doing good.

"Remember that thou shall keep holy the Lord's Day." There are many things involved in this commandment. But there is a starting place, and the woman of the Gospel lesson today provides it. She was ill, she was crippled, but she was worshipping in church on the Lord's Day. We, too, can make such a start each Sunday in keeping the Lord's Day holy. Jesus said, "Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I amongst them." His special presence and power is felt when His family meets together that they might with one heart and one tongue raise a common plea to Him. When a hundred voices cry out: "Lord, have mercy," a situation is created which opens the gates of grace to flow.

First Five Saturdays Devotion Revealed by the Mother of God

During the July 13, 1917 apparition at Fatima, Our Lady said so kindly and so sadly: "You



have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart..."**The Great Promise:** Eight years after the Fatima apparitions, on December 10, 1925, Our Lady appeared again to Lucia, who was then a postulant in the Dorothean convent at Pontevedra, Spain. This time Our Lady appeared with the

Child Jesus. She addressed Lucia as follows: "Look, my daughter, at my heart surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."**The Five First Saturdays of Reparation to Our Lady:** (1) Confession (8 days before or after) (2) Receive Holy Communion(can be at Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy); (3) Recite five decades of the Rosary; (4) Keep Our Lady company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 26 Decorating the (MR) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 November 26 Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 December 3 (MR) Parish & Archieparchial St. Nicholas Celebration.
 December 6 Solemn Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 December 8 Solemn Feast of Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 December 17 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.
 Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 3:00 p.m.
 December 19 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 5:00 p.m.
 December 22 (MR) 8:00 am Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 pm DL of St. John Chrysostom.

Regular Weekend Schedule & Sunday, Christmas Eve

December 23 Saturday @ 4:00 p.m. December 24 Sunday (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 a.m.

December 24 (MR) Great Compline @ 8:00 p.m. followed by Christmas Carols; 9:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great of Christmas Day. — December 25 Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great; 9:00 a.m. of Christmas Day; (NS) Christmas Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day of St. Basil the Great 11:00 a.m.

December 26 2nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.
 December 27 3rd Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen DL – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Saints of the Week — Nov. 29

The Martyrs Paramon & Philemon

The Holy Martyr Paramon and the 370 Martyrs with him suffered for their faith in Christ in the year 250 during the rule of the emperor Decius (249-251). The governor of the Eastern regions, Aquianus, had locked up 370 Christians in prison, urging them to abjure Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols. They subjected the captives to beatings, hoping by torture and the threat of death to persuade them to renounce Christ and worship the pagan gods. One of the local inhabitants, Paramon by name, openly denounced the cruel governor and **confessed his faith in the One True God, the Lord Jesus Christ.** They beheaded St Paramon after fierce tortures, together with the other 370 martyrs. The Holy Martyr Philemon suffered for Christ in the year 274, during the persecution against Christians by the emperor Aurelian (270-275). St Philemon was a bread merchant in Ancyra. Envious persons reported to the governor Felix that Philemon was a Christian, and so he came before a judge. **St Philemon did not renounce Christ.** For this they hammered nails into his hands, feet and head, and they forced him to walk. The holy martyr bravely endured the torments and he died from loss of blood, giving up his soul to God.



**Come O Jesus Our Savior,
 Redeem and Save Us!**

General Announcements

THE 2nd SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS — As we continue this



minor penitential period we are directed to follow Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem by preparing ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. Not only prior to Christmas but always through our earthly pilgrimage, we must carry Him reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. It is through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings, frequent confession of sins, works of virtue and additional participation in Divine Liturgies, we can accomplish this end. Together as a parish, let us collectively practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (required) for the intention for the return of

our beloved back to Church. The color **PURPLE** is worn as a sign of **ROYALTY** of the One to be born in Bethlehem.

QUALIFICATIONS TO BE ADMITTED AS SPONSOR AT BAPTISM & CHRISMATION — If you are asked to be a Sponsor (Godparent) you are to be congratulated for taking on a life-long and awesome responsibility to the one you are standing for. You must be a witness to them by **observing the Ten Commandments along with fulfilling the Precepts of the Catholic Church:**

- (1) Be Chrismated (Confirmed) and have completed your 15th year of age;
 - (2) you must regularly attend the Divine Liturgy at least on all Sundays and all Holy Days of Obligation;
 - (3) you must have made your Easter Duty Precept (Confession of Mortal Sins and Reception of Holy Communion during the Paschal Season);
 - (4) You must donate in some capacity your time, talent and treasure (contribution envelopes) for the mission of your home-local parish;
 - (5) you must offer fasting (abstinence) according to requirements of your particular Rite; and
 - (6) if married, you must be married according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- If you are asked to be a Sponsor in another Catholic Church, you will be asked to provide a "Sponsor Certificate" from your home parish which indicates that you are observing the above requirements. *By not fulfilling these requirements, your role will be that of a Christian Witness.*



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Schedule — Nov. 26 - Church Decorating; Dec. 3 - St. Nicholas Party (whole parish is invited); Dec.10 - Possibly Tapsak baby party; Dec. 17 - Theology of the Church Building; could be advertised to non-parishioners as "church tour"

INVITATION TO OUR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION — Next Sunday, December 3, 2023 following the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, the Youth Group will perform a presentation focusing on life and inspiration of St. Nicholas. Presentations will be short and story based presented by some youth group members. We are committed in teaching the Faith to our children and pray that by your attendance it will inspire our children to a greater love of Christ and His Church.



YOUTH GROUP TAKING CANDY ORDERS THE VIRTUAL WAY — In 2024 we are hoping to send Teens to California. To defray the cost, the Holy Ghost Youth Group is holding a virtual fundraiser from Sarris Candies. This is a contactless fundraiser and all purchases will be shipped directly to the buyer free of charge. You can purchase anything from the company and we will receive 25% of the sale. Just follow these steps and candy will be on the way: **1. Go to sarris Candies fundraising.com; 2. Go to the "fundraising" tab.; 3. Our group code is 10-3617; 4. You do not have to put in a teen's name unless you wish.**



FUNDRAISING