

## Parish Offerings – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — Sept. 24, 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 (\$1,776) YP (\$9)	\$1,785.00
Holy Days	30.00
Votive Candles	170.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,985.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$658) YP (\$1)	\$659.00
Holy Days	5.00
Utilities (\$45) Improvements (\$30)	75.00
Votive Candles	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$779.00

## Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (32)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (68); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (18)



### 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  
*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



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North Side Parishioner

**Alan Valeriano**  
**(412) 638-3417**  
**PA #172370**

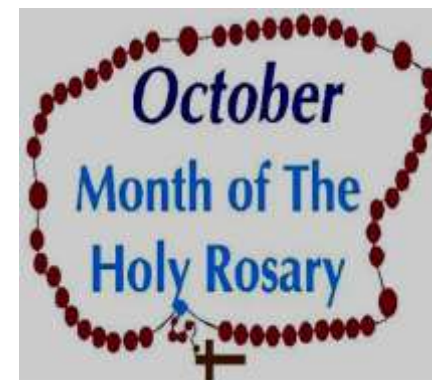
## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE 18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Protection Feast of the Most Holy Theotokos  
Respect Life Month — October 1, 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**

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](http://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

October 1, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 40



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos  
Patroness of the Metropolitan Providence

SUN, Oct 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Diana Charles Elaine Kurtanich  
(1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing)  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + John Spontak Son: Robert  
(20<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 10/2)

Mon, Oct 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) NO DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULED  
Tue, Oct 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) NO DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULED  
Wed, Oct 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) NO DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULED  
Thrs, Oct 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) NO DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULED



This week marks the Annual Clergy Retreat at the Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA.  
Please keep our Pastor and all clergy in your prayers. Emergency: call office 24/7.

#### Holy Apostle Thomas

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) in remembrance  
of Our Lord's Crucifixion and Death upon the Precious Cross & vanquishing of coronavirus

Fri, Oct 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William J. Kendrach Son: Michael & Angie  
6:00 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary  
6:30 p.m. (MR) Blessing of animals at side entrance of Church



Sat, Oct 7 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Michele J. (Terrek) Chiavetta (birthday 10/5) Mom: Mildred Terrek

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

SUN, Oct 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna May Sejka Theresa Kundrat  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert J. Galida (birthday 10/11) Dgtr: Kathy 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

Oct 1 – Nanine Cifrutlak, Frank Grzywinski, Steven Krempasky, KIMBERLY VALERIANO; Oct 2 – BETTY LORINC, Grace Purcell; Oct 3 – Michele Billy, James Eberle, George Verner; Oct 4 – MaryEllen Oslick, Steve Usouski; Oct 6 – Erin Bates; Oct 7 – Nicholas Nazak II.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, 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, 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 Cifrutlak, Mildred Terrek.  
LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Do female Anglican priests have the same power to consecrate the Eucharist as do male Anglican priests? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: The Catholic Church does not recognize the validity of Anglican orders, whether they are sought by men or women. In the Catholic Church's view, no Anglican priest, man or woman, can validly consecrate the bread and wine. During the reign of King Edward VI the Church of England no longer upheld the Mass (The Divine Liturgy) as a sacrifice. Therefore, the form of the sacrament of holy orders was compromised, rendering it invalid.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

October 1 — October 7, 2023

(MR): In memory of John Kundrat

offered by Wife: Theresa

(NS): In memory of Thomas F. Zon (5<sup>th</sup> ann of pass 10/5)

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Sister-in-law: Theresa Fitzurka

(NS) AVAILABLE 2024





# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE** — Our Byzan-TEENS first bake sale is today, following the Divine Liturgy. The election of new officers will then follow. Social activities will then be arranged for the upcoming months. The proceeds from this project will help them collect funds for their participation to the 2024 Byzan-Teen Youth Rally in 2024 in the Golden State of California.



## North Side

### No Particular Announcements this Week

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**Annual Clergy Retreat this week from October 1 through 5 at the Antiochian Village, Ligonier. Please keep all the Priests & Deacons in your prayers that God may refresh their zeal in the service of the Church. All emergency pastoral situations, please call the MR Rectory (412) 771-3324.**

**Re-learn to Pray the Rosary especially for the intention: *That God may bless our nation with peace, that the division in our country may be healed and that the hearts of many will turn back to Our Lord and His Church.* Let us sacrifice this time as Our Country is depending on our prayer! — (MR) OCTOBER FRIDAYS @ 6:00 p.m.**

## A Note From Our E.C.F. Coordinator

Following this morning's Divine Liturgy **October 1**, I'll be bringing **biscuits and sausage gravy** so we can have a bit of a brunch. The **youth group will have their bake sale that day** too. If you wish to bring something to share you are most welcome. — *Subdeacon Luke.*

**THIRD ANNUAL BLESSING OF ANIMALS FORTHCOMING** — Since our pets are very dear to us, our pastor will, once again this year, beseech God to shower blessings upon them. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, (Feast Day, Oct. 4), who loved animals and often spoke to them, and whose feast is at the beginning of October, our pastor is inviting you to bring your pets for a short blessing serving on **Friday, October 6, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. at the (MR) Church's side entrance.** This blessing signifies our gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of companionship that our pets afford us.



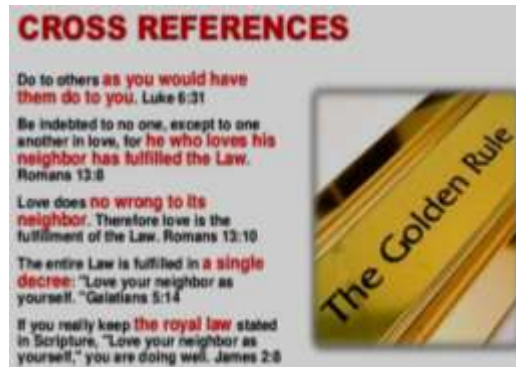
Blessing of the Animals

**DEACON NATHANIEL TAPSAK ASSIGNED FOR WEEKENDS & HOLY DAYS** — Now in his final year of priestly formation at the seminary, Deacon "Nate" has been assigned to our Holy Ghost (MR) Church for his liturgical practicum until May 2024. We pray that his time with us will aid him towards his priesthood ministry.

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

## Living Beyond the Golden Rule— LK 6:31-36

We see in the gospel today that Jesus teaches us the golden rule, which bids us to do to others, as



we would have them do to us. In reflecting upon the golden rule, we perceive that the important fact of **Christian conduct is that it consists not in refraining from bad things, but in doing good things toward our neighbor.** Jesus stresses that we are to do good toward our neighbor even he does not love us in return. No matter what a person does to you, (plots against you or slanders you), you are still called to be kind and good to him or her. Even though we may

never get a "thank you." The Lord God, Who watches from on high, will give rewards to all who follow his golden rule. For Jesus says: "Your reward will be great and you will be the sons of the Most High, because he is kind both to the thankless and to the wicked." The second fact is that the Christian way of life is based on accomplishing extra deeds. There are too many people who desire to be just as good as their neighbors. **Jesus challenges us that we must strive to be better than the ordinary person.** It is not our neighbor with whom we must compare ourselves; it is God with Whom we must compare ourselves. The reason why we compare ourselves to God is that we are created in the image and likeness of God. By doing extra good deeds toward the church and toward our neighbor, we come closer to God. There are indeed many extra deeds that we can do. **We can pray more and attend the Divine Liturgy more often. We could also visit the sick in our hospitals and nursing homes.** So let us today follow Jesus Christ by doing the "extra."

## October Is Respect Life Month

The Respect Life Program, sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, started in



1972 and begins anew each October—the month set aside by the U.S. bishops as "**Respect Life Month.**" The program promotes respect for human life in light of our intrinsic dignity as having been created in God's image and likeness and likeness. This year is particularly suited for our times. While attacks against human life seem to grow ever more numerous and callous, we know that Christ has conquered sin and death. Through our Christian hope in the Resurrection, we are given the grace to persevere in faith, and called to an eternal destiny with him. (U.S.C.C.B. org website)

### 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK INTENTION OF REPECT LIFE MONTH:

#### Prayer for all Unborn Children & their Mothers & Fathers

**O God, Who adorn creation with splendor and beauty and fashion human lives in Your Image and Likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of Your Hands, and renew among Your people a readiness to nurture and sustain Your precious gift of Human Life. In this may Your Name be blessed and glorified, Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.**

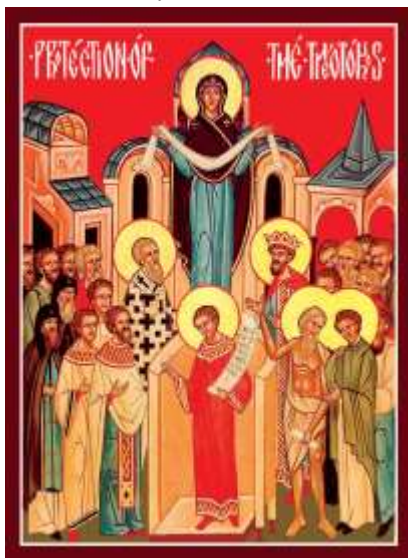
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1 ..... Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.  
 October 1-5 ..... Annual Clergy Retreat at the Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA  
 October 6 ..... Each Friday: (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.  
**October 8 ..... (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting in Church following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.**  
**October 14 ..... (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting, Saturday @ 2:00 p.m.**  
 October 15 ..... **Deanery Pasta Dinner from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.**  
 October 29 ..... Sunday of Christ the King.  
 ..... Annual Moleben for our 4 saintly bishops. @ 3:00 p.m.

## SOLEMN HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

### Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

Today, **Oct. 1**, marks the feast day of the appearance of the Mother of God

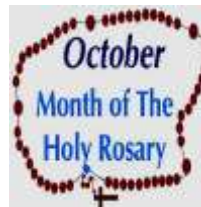


at Blachernae (Lavra) in the tenth century. At the end of St. Andrew also known as a “fool for Christ,” along with his disciple St. Epiphanius, and a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae, nearby the city gates. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of her relics were kept. The relics were her robe, veil, and part of her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the fifth century. The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt down and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. During the

time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering. The Protection is commemorated most fervently in Slavic churches, probably because St. Andrew was a Slav. The first celebration of the Theotokos's Protection in the Eastern Slavic Churches dates back from the 12th century and today is celebrated throughout the Byzantine Catholic Church. The feast day commemorating the miracle is celebrated with an All-Night Vigil, with many of the same elements as occur on Great Feasts of the Theotokos. However, this feast has no post-festive. ***This feast is of particular importance to the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh because 49 years ago October 6, 1974, Metropolitan Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko along with the bishops of Passaic and Parma consecrated the entire metropolitan province to her heavenly protection at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.***

## General Announcements

**MONTH OF OCTOBER: THE HOLY ROSARY** — At the request of several parishioners to honor Our Blessed Mother in this special month of October, the Rosary according to our Byzantine-Ruthenian (Rusyn) tradition will be prayed **each Friday throughout the month @ 6:00 p.m.** at our Parish in McKees Rocks. This sacred devotion has been a part of our Church since its founding over 100 years ago which our Founders and Benefactors brought with them from Carpathian Homeland. Come and join us as we pray together honoring and petitioning the Holy Theotokos.



**PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO SERVE PASTA DINNER** — Mark your calendars! The Priests and Deacons in the Pittsburgh Deanery will be again hosting a **FREE PASTA DINNER** at St. Elias Church, Munhall on **Sunday October 15, 2023** from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. A signup list is located in the Church. We must know how many to prepare for! ***The final day for registration is Sunday, October 8.*** A freewill offering will be taken to subsidize the project. Any profit that will be made will go to the Archieparchial Priests' Pension Plan. Come join us! A signup sheet has been placed near the (MR) side vestibule entrance & (NS) narthex.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: COME & SEE WEEKEND** — Young men 18-35 are invited to a weekend retreat, Friday through Saturday, **November 10-12, 2023** at Saints Cyril &



Methodius Seminary. *The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest.* No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense involved in participating in this retreat.

Deadline for online registration is at [rector@bcs.edu](mailto:rector@bcs.edu) by **Wed. Oct 18.**

**RESERVATIONS FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS BEING ACCEPTED** — Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp reservation are continuing to be being taken on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both areas only two weekends of each will be accepted. When the demand subsides, you will be able to reserve additional weekend dates. Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend (per candle/DL) in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and place it in the collection basket. You may reserve unlimited weekday DL's! Please take care of this matter quickly to acquire your special dates. Please be patient for a reply.

