

**Parish Offerings – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — August 27 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 (\$2,201) YP (\$4) .....	\$2,205.00
Holy Days (\$152) YP (\$2) .....	154.00
Special Donation (In mem of +Kenneth Shanta by Beverly Vento) ....	100.00
Votive Candles .....	155.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,614.00

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

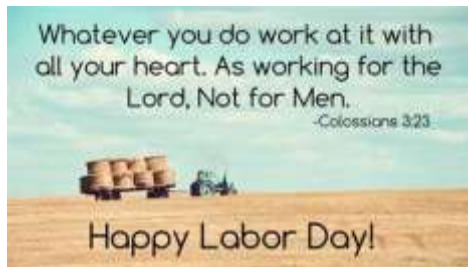
Regular Offering (\$609) YP (\$1) .....	\$610.00
Holy Days .....	40.00
Utilities .....	55.00
Votive Candles .....	26.00
	<hr/>

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$731.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (23)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (61); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)

Beholding of St. John the Baptist, Aug 29 — (MR) 9:00 am (4); (NS) 6:00 pm (8)



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET

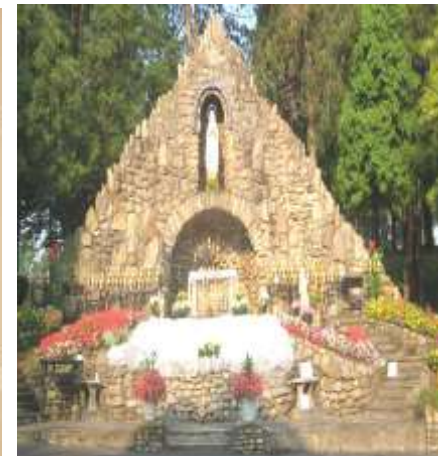
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Annual Labor Day Pilgrimage — September 3, 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.

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 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*



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



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

September 3, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 36



Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!  
 Ispusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

#### Mount St. Macrina Pilgrimage — Labor Day Weekend

SUN, Sept 3 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Andrew Petrilla (*birthday*) Jos. Cehula  
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Dolores + Tony Nee Alice Slagle

#### Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday — No Banking or Postal Services

Mon, Sept 4 \* 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna (*birthday*) Josephine Guy

Tues, Sept 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak (*birthday*) Hilary Zubritzky

#### Miracle of the Holy Angelic Commander, Michael the Archangel at Chonia

Wed, Sept 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William Gogal (*4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing*) Anonymous

#### Prefestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Thrs, Sept 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Bishop John M. Bilock (*29<sup>th</sup> ann of passing*)



### Nativity of the Holy Theotokos



#### Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Fri, Sept 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Emily K. Wilson (*19<sup>th</sup> ann of passing*) Family  
 + Kathleen Todora (*21<sup>st</sup> ann of passing*)

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

#### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Amelia M. Sotak Dgr: Elaine Cassidy  
 (*4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/11*)

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

#### Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

#### & Sunday Before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 10 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Onesi + Frank T. Firko, Jr. + Frank Firko, Sr.  
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. Valeriano & Kallop Families  
 (*12<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/15*)

## 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

Sept 4 – Lynn Kacsur; Sept 8 – AMBERLY VALERIANO.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, 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, 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 Cifrukak. 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. What difference does it make what religion you are, if you live like Christ? A. **Catholic Answers Apologist:** If someone does everything Jesus calls him to do, then he will—among other things—believe in Jesus and join his Church. Christ set up *one* Church for his believers to join. In Matthew 16:18, he says to Peter "Upon this Rock I will build my Church," not "I will build my churches...." Worship and religious affiliation are part of what Jesus commanded his followers, and so what religion you belong to *does* matter.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 3 — Sept. 9, 2023

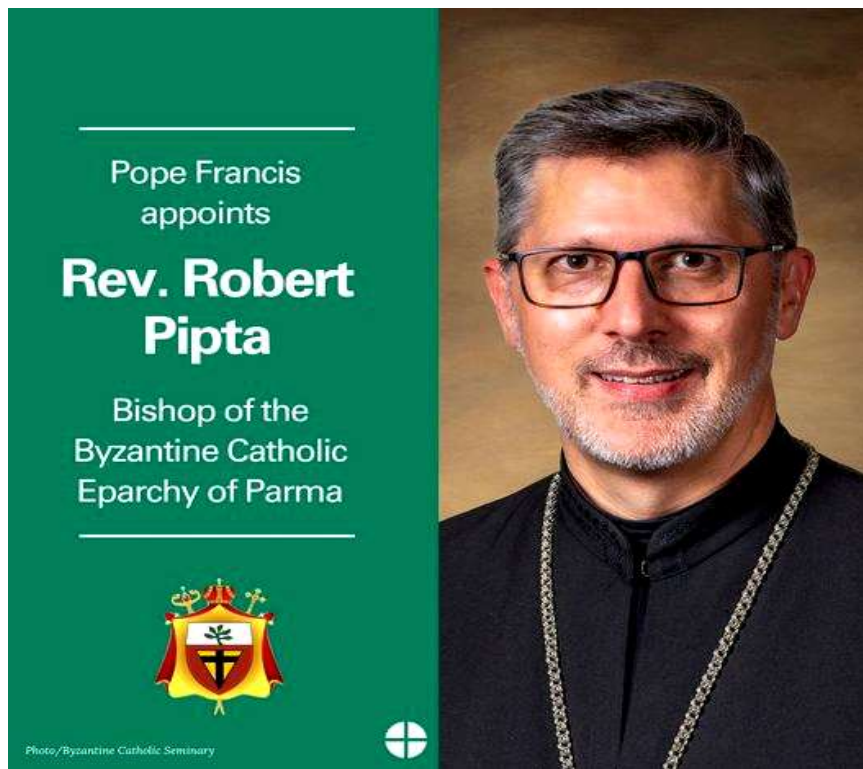
(MR): In memory of Rose A. Debranski (*19<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/14*)

offered by Dgr: Nancy

(NS): In memory of Agnes & Anthony Knoll

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023 offered by Dgr: Leslie O'Donnell (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2023

# General Announcements



**WASHINGTON** - Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Robert M. Pipta as bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma. Bishop-elect Pipta is a priest of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, and currently serves as rector of Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **The appointment was publicized in Washington, D.C. on August 31, 2023**, by Monsignor Séamus P. Horgan, *chargé d'affaires, ad interim* at the apostolic nunciature in Washington, in the temporary absence of Cardinal-designate Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Father Pipta was born on April 7, 1967, in Anaheim, California. He studied at the University of California at Irvine (1985-1990) and earned a bachelor's degree in music. He attended the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1990-1994). He was ordained to the priesthood on April 21, 1994, for the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys. Bishop-elect Pipta's assignments after ordination include: parochial vicar at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Phoenix, Arizona (1994-1997); administrator of St. Garbiel Byzantine Catholic Church in Las Vegas, Nevada (1997-2004); and pastor at Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church in San Diego, California (2004-2014). Since 2014, Father Pipta has served as rector of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh. Bishop-elect Pipta has held numerous appointments within the eparchy: member of the Intereparchial and Eparchial Music and Liturgy Commissions (1994-present); ecclesiastical notary for the eparchy (1994-1997); a member of the advisory council for the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius (1998-2012); vocations director (1994-2014); member of the Eparchial Review Board (2008-2014); and the Eparchial College of Consultors (2008-2014). He has also served as director of an eparchial youth camp, "Eparchial Alive in Christ" (2003-2014).

The [Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma of the Ruthenians](#) ministers to 4,309 Byzantine Ruthenian Rite Catholics in the United States.

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### God Invites all to the Wedding Banquet (Mt. 22: 1-14)

In today's parable of the Wedding Banquet, the Father has prepared for His Son a wedding, and the Father sends out servants to invite people to attend this great occasion. He sends out servants with invitations not just one time, but three times, and the responses are varied. The first group of servants is simply ignored, the invited are not willing to come. The second group of servants is mocked, and some of the invited just leave and go back to their business, and others take the servants and abuse them and even kill them. The final group is sent to a different audience—instead of a select few being invited to the wedding, these servants are sent on the highways to invite anyone they might see. And finally, the wedding hall is filled with guests. We find ourselves, obviously, to be in the final group. The king has called everyone, but even then, to attend, there are expectations! The guests are expected to be properly attired. **This one man had not worn his wedding garment.** The Church Fathers tell us this lapse is so terrible because the Host/the King had provided the wedding garments for his guests to wear. He has no excuse for not be dressed and ready for the wedding. **The wedding garment is our baptismal robe**, and all that goes with it: The purity of our lives, having died to the old man and being clothed in the new man, being clothed in Christ. Once we say "yes" to Christ, there are expectations. If you love Me, Christ says, keep My commandments. We are expected not to just continue doing whatever we want to do, but we are expected is to take up our Cross daily and follow Christ wherever He may lead us. If we just keep doing whatever we want, and live in mortal sin, we are still the master in our lives. We will be just like this man who arrived at the wedding but didn't have his wedding garment. It would be a horrible thing to discover that the invitation was open to all (as it is), but that we had not prepared ourselves to be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom.



### Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means

*Have a safe Labor Day*



**Labor Day**, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a special day for this purpose. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 1-4 ..... 89<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  
 September 14 ..... Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross (Solemn Holy Day)  
 Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes prior for the Solemn Enthronement of the Holy Cross — (MR) 8:45 a.m.; (NS) 5:45 p.m.  
 September 17 ..... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year  
 October 1 ..... Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.  
**Save the date: Deanery Pasta Dinner – Oct. 15 @ 3:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.**

## Solemn Holy Day This Week — Sept 8 Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anne. Her father



was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a

daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anne. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

# General Announcements

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MOUNT ST. MACRINA PILGRIMAGE** — It is our prayer that you can join *the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage in honor of the Theotokos under her precious title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from September 1 through the 4.* If you have never attended a pilgrimage before, you are encouraged to make this one which contains a myriad of graces. If you are experiencing any difficulties or problems, or just wish to thank God through Mary for an answered prayer, take them to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and lay them at her feet.



**NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** — Our *Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.)* Classes will be commencing enrollment in the next few weeks. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration which follows all Divine Liturgies beginning next week. All classes begin on **Catechetical Sunday, September 17, 2023** following the Sunday morning (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Contact Coordinator, Subdeacon Luke Iyengar



(412) 863-3285.

**AN ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS** — If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), but are homebound, our pastor is more than willing to make a sacramental visitation to your residence. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact him. **Please phone the parish office (412) 771-3324** and set a time when Father may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS AND PRAYER ARE VITALLY ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul! He is looking forward hearing from you!



**THE DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY RECORD BOOK FOR 2024** — The Record Book has arrived! Intentions for 2024 will commence to be taken on **Sunday, September 10, 2023.** Please do not submit your requests earlier than this commencement date. The book has to be setup prior to recording both Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp intentions. Thank you for your patience.



**PRAISING AND THANKING GOD THROUGH OUR HOLY DAYS** — As we marked the beginning of the new Church Year on September 1, we have the opportunity to renew the events of our salvation through all holy days. To praise and thank God for revealing His mercy to us with the promise of everlasting life, holy days remind us of each of these special salvific events. *Over the years, the attendance has been on the low side.* Show your love for God and His Church. The beauty of our Byzantine Catholic Church, emphasizes much solemnity by commemorating several salvific events in our holy days throughout the year other than the required Sundays.

