

Parish Offerings – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost — June 18, 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 (\$1,145) YP (\$4)	\$1,149.00
All Saints (\$94) Holy Days (\$110)	204.00
Special Donation (In memory of + Ken Shanta by Allyson Lorenzo)	200.00
Votive Candles	178.86
	<hr/>
	\$1,731.86

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$693.00
All Saints (\$20) Holy Days (\$25)	45.00
Votive Candles	47.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$785.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (21)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)



ΙΧΘΥΣ (ich-thus)

Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, Θεοῦ Υἱός, Σωτήρ
(I-sous Christos, The-os Y-ius, So-tair)

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

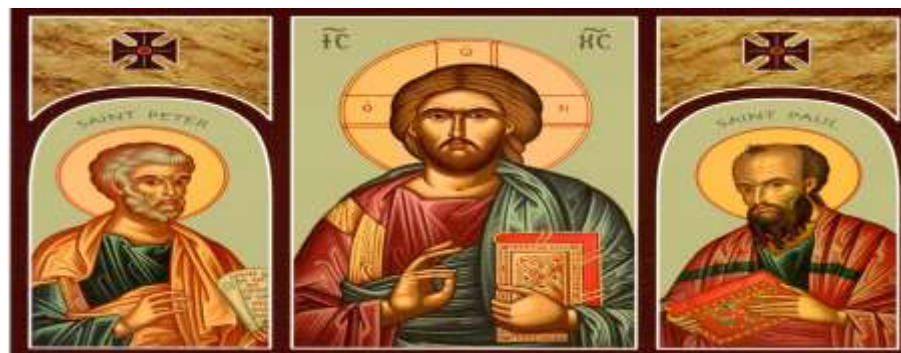
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

3rd & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast

June 25, 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.

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!

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

“I say unto you that you are Peter, the Rock, and upon this Rock I will build my Church, and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16:18

DESIGNS BY NANCY
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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!



THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

June 25, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 26



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

4th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast

Final Day of Nativity of the Baptist

SUN, Jun 25 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Jun 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health of Anonymous Anonymous

Tue, Jun 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak Mary Ann & Steve Puluka

Recommended SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for vocations

Wed, Jun 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(25th ann of passing 6/10)



Great Vespers w/ Vigil Divine Liturgy of the Feasts of Saints Peter & Paul

7:00 p.m. (MR) + Helen (Kuruc) Long (3rd ann of passing 6/23) Anonymous

Feast of the Holy Prime Apostles Peter and Paul

THRS, JUN 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) Spiritual & Temporal Welfare Family
of Nicholas Peter Wilson

Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): in
repentance for Jesus' salvific death upon the Cross

Fri, Jun 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Nevaldo Mell (birthday) Dgr: Regina

Sat, Jul 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost — Independence Weekend
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Michael Sendro (9th ann of passing) Wife: Janet & Family

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Annual Independence Weekend — 4th of July

SUN, Jul 2 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + Andrew Skalko Anonymous.
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Daniel J. Galida (birthday 7/5) 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

Jun 26 – Patricia Porter; Jun 29 – Patricia Kovacs; Jun 30 – Olivia Leasure, Nicholas Stilwell; Jul 1 – PAUL MITRO.

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, 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 Cifrutlak. Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.
LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.
BRIDGEVILLE REHAB & CARE CENTER (3590 Washington Pike, Bridgeville 15017): Dan Pikras.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. If prayer is supposed to be for good, why do priests use it as punishment (or penance) after confession? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: The prayers of penance are not punishment. Although our sins are forgiven by God through the sacrament, the effects of our sin are still present in the world. The prayers are given for our penance not as punishment but as an attempt on our part to make up for the effects of our sins. Then the priest imposes an act of penance or satisfaction on the penitent; this should serve not only to make up for the past but also to help him to begin a new life and provide him with an antidote to weakness. As far as possible, the penance should correspond to the seriousness and nature of the sins. This act of penance may suitably take the form of prayer, self-denial, and especially service of one's neighbor and works of mercy. These will underline the fact that sin and its forgiveness have a social aspect.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

June 25 — Jul 1, 2023

(MR): In memory of Michael Sendro (9th ann of passing (7/1))
offered by Wife: Janet & Family

(NS): In memory of Mary Agnes Kress

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023 offered by Son: William & Kathryn (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **James "Tiny" Edward Lautenschlager, 85**, of Traverse City, MI on Sunday, June 18, 2023, at the Orchard Creek Personal Care Facility. He is survived by his wife of 58 years: Margaret "Marge" Droter; Son: James, Son: Paul, and Dgtr: Elaine (Paul) Monaham. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, Traverse City, MI. The Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at the Immaculate Conception Church, Traverse City on Monday, June 26 at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be at the Oakwood Cemetery, Traverse City. Since many of you have been friends with the Lautenschlager's, you may wish to send them a sympathy card: 1330 Silverwood Drive, Traverse City, MI 49685. In blessed repose grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant James, and remember him forever. Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



North Side

No Particular Announcements at this Time

ACT & SUPPORT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COMMENCES THIS WEEK — DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY — Catholic eparchies and dioceses across the Commonwealth are marking Religious Freedom Week which began **June 22 and continues through June 29**: Let us stand up and learn, defend, proclaim the Truth of our Faith and by offering this prayer for Religious Freedom: **O**

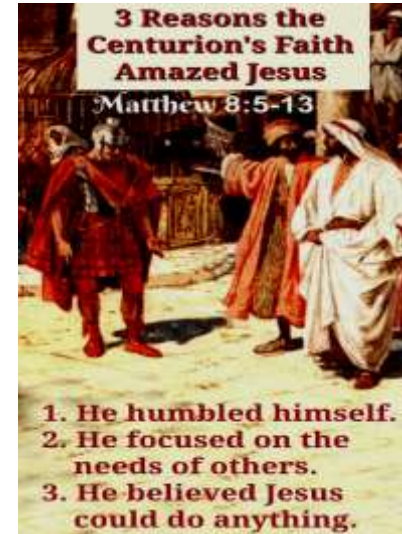


God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith during the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome — for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us — this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen."

BOTH PARISHES ARE IN NEED OF A REPRESENTATIVE FOR MATCHING FUNDS — Despite the relinquishing of local districts and lodges, GCU is offering each parish the ability of matching funds of \$3,000.00. The Representative will act as Liaison between the Parish and GCU Headquarters. You would have to acquire permission from GCU for the event. Following the social activity, you must submit an article, along with two pictures which are to appear in an Upcoming GCU Magazine. If you are interested, please contact the pastor.

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Centurion Teaches Us to Believe! — (Matthew 8:5-13)



This centurion was a heathen, a Roman soldier. Though he was a soldier, yet he was a godly man. No man's calling or place will be an excuse for unbelief and sin. See how he states his servant's case. *We should concern ourselves for the souls of our children and servants, who are spiritually sick, who feel not spiritual evils, who know not that which is spiritually good; and we should bring them to Christ by faith and prayers.* Observe his self-abasement. Humble souls are made humbler by Christ's gracious dealings with them. Observe his great faith. The more diffident we are of ourselves; the stronger will be our confidence in Christ. Herein the centurion owns him to have Divine power, and a full command of all the creatures and powers of nature, as a master over his servants. Such servants we all should be to God; we must go and come, according to the directions of his word and the disposals of

his providence. But when the son of man comes, he finds little faith, therefore he finds little fruit. An outward profession may cause us to be called children of the kingdom; but if we rest in that, and have nothing else to show, we shall be cast out. The servant got a cure of his disease, and the master got the approval of his faith. What was said to him, is said to all, Believe, and you will receive; only believe. See the power of Christ, and the power of faith. The healing of our souls is at once the effect and evidence of our interest in the blood of Christ.

Who Were Roman Centurions?

In ancient Rome the "centurion" meant "captain of 100", and the Roman centurion was captain over 100-foot soldiers in a legion. The Army of Rome consisted of three types of soldiers: The Praetorian Guard (Caesar's bodyguard), The Legionaries (infantry soldiers and officers made up of citizens), and The Auxiliaries (non-citizen troops). The centurion was loyal and courageous, beginning as a soldier in the army and working their way up the ranks. They were noticed by the general for their skill and courage in battle, and were made officers. The number of centurions in a legion was 60, that being at all epochs the number of centuries, although the number varied in the cohort or speira. **The ordinary duties of the centurion were to drill his men, inspect their arms, food and clothing, and to command them in the camp and in the field.** Centurions were sometimes employed on detached service the conditions of which in the provinces are somewhat obscure. Men like Cornelius and Julius (Acts 10:1; 27:1) may have been separated from the legion to which they properly belonged for the discharge of special duties. They and other centurions mentioned in the Gospels and the Acts (Mt 8:5; Mk 15:39, 44, 45; Lk 23:47) are represented by the sacred writers.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 28 Great Vespers with Divine Liturgy of SS. Peter & Paul — (MR) 7:00 p.m.
June 29 ... Holy Day of Obligation: Feast SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
July 4 A special (MR) 9:00 a.m. Patriotic Divine Liturgy.
July 20 Simple Holy Day: Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles.
(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
July 27 GCU Byzantine Catholic Family Day, Kennywood Park. Tickets at gcuusa.com

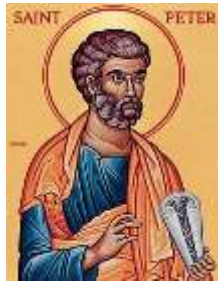
Save the Dates

Archieparchial Altar Server Day (TBA); Churches Picnic (July 23); Archieparchial Marriage Jubilarian Celebration (Sept. 10 – cf. article under General Announcements)

Obligatory Holy Day of the Week – June 29

THE HOLY APOSTLE PETER

The son of Jonah and brother of Andrew the First-Called, of the tribe of Simeon and the town of Bethsaida, he was a fisherman and was at first called Simon, but the Lord was pleased to call him



Cephas, or Peter (Jn 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to give clear expression to his faith in the Lord Jesus, saying: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Mt 16:16). His love for the Lord was very strong, and his faith in Him went from strength to strength. When the Lord was put on trial, Peter denied him three times, but it needed only one look into the face of the Lord, and Peter's soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter became a fearless and powerful preacher of the Gospel. After his first sermon in Jerusalem, about 3,000 souls were converted to the Faith. He preached the Gospel throughout Palestine and Asia Minor, in Italy and Illyria. He performed

many wonders, healing the sick and raising the dead, and even his shadow had the power of healing the sick. He had a major struggle with Simon the Magician, who declared himself to be from God but was a servant of the devil. He finally put him to shame and overcame him. Peter was condemned to death on the order of the wicked Emperor Nero, a friend of Simon's. After installing Linus as Bishop of Rome and exhorting and encouraging the flock of Christ there, Peter went to his death with joy. When he saw the cross before him, he asked the executioner to crucify him upside-down, because he felt himself unworthy to die in the same way as his Lord. And so, this great servant of the greatest Master went to his rest and received a crown of eternal glory.

THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL

Born in Tarsus and of the tribe of Benjamin, he was formerly called Saul and studied under Gamaliel. He was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christians. He was wondrously converted to the Christian faith by the Lord Himself, who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He was baptized by the Apostle Ananias, named Paul, and enrolled in the work of the Great Apostles. He preached the Gospel everywhere with burning zeal, from the borders of Arabia to the land of Spain, among both the Jews and the heathen, and receiving the title of "The Apostle to the Gentiles." His fearful sufferings were matched only by his superhuman endurance. Through all the years of his preaching, he hung from day to day like a thread between life and death. Filling his days and nights with toil and sufferings for Christ, organizing the Church in many places and receiving a high level of perfection, he was able to say: "I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20). He was beheaded in Rome in the reign of Nero, at the same time as St. Peter was being crucified.



General Announcements

ARCHIEPARCHIAL CHURCHES RETURNING TO TRADITIONAL WAY OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*****4 days prior to Commencement*****

At our Annual Clergy Days on May 23, 2023, we have been advised by the Chancery Office that since the World Health Organization declared an end to the emergency phase of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are to return to the traditional distribution of Holy Communion via one golden spoon. Our Holy Ghost Churches (MR & NS) will effect this ancient practice on the Feasts of Saints Peter & Paul, June 29. **Please be reminded that upon approaching you are to (1) open your mouth wide, DO NOT extend your tongue (i.e., do as you would at the dentist office); (2) tilt your head back slightly; (3) the Holy Eucharist will be placed into your mouth. Do not close your mouth on the spoon.**



REGISTER ON-GOING FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 15, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. This celebration has been extended on a new format. It will take place on **Sunday, September 10, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Elias Church, Munhall**. If you are observing one of the above milestones, *please contact the Church office if you plan or DO NOT plan to attend!* All specially marked anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. *The final day of registration is Sunday, July 16.*



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 August 6**. For additional information, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.



PREPARING FOR OUR ANNUAL CHURCHES PICNIC — If you would like to help in organizing our upcoming Churches Picnic on July 23, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. please attend next Sunday's organizational meeting following the (MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy in the church basement. Due to many families winding up their summer vacations and our younger members getting ready to return to school, we are trying a July date than having it in August. We need your assistance and ideas!

