

**Parish Offerings – Sunday after Elevation of Cross– Sept. 17, 2017**

“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 (\$1,968.50) YP (\$11) .....	\$1,979.50
Holy Days .....	226.00
Votive Candles .....	104.10
<hr/>	
-	\$2,309.60

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$396.85
Holy Days .....	25.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvements (\$5) .....	15.00
Votive Candles .....	50.00
<hr/>	
-	\$486.85

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (38)  
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (83); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (36)



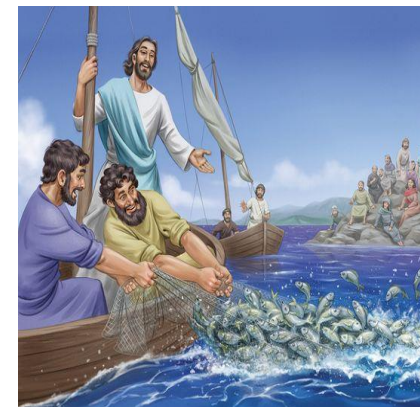
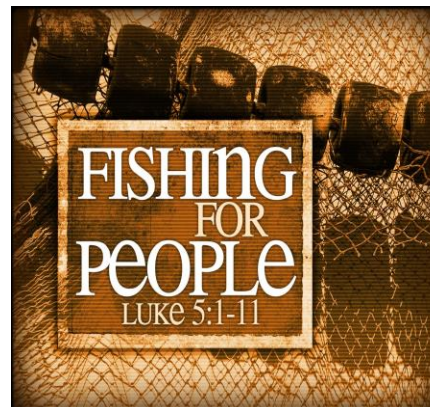
“If you’re ever headed the wrong way in life, remember the road to Heaven allows U-turns.”



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**September 24, 2017**



**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**

**All Liturgical Services LIVE on UStream: [www.UStream.tv/channel/holy-ghost-church](http://www.UStream.tv/channel/holy-ghost-church)**

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.

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



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**Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!**



**GCU**  
Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
A Fraternal Benefit Society

Lodge 390 offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Marge (412) 331-3577

**This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call (412) 771-3324**

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.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.

GCU Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Margaret Beliuнас (412) 331-3577 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.

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 as 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)*

September 24, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 39



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
SUN., Sept 24	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Betty J. Mowery <i>(9<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/16)</i>	Dgtr: Barbara
Mon, Sept 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Alexander F. Perschy <i>(8<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/24)</i>	Son: Kurt
<b>Passing of the Holy Apostle &amp; Evangelist John</b>			
Tue, Sept 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joyce D. Ray <i>(birthday 9/25)</i>	Gunkel Family
Wed, Sept 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Irene Bilak	Sophie & John Luzik
<b>Venerable Father Chariton, Confessor of the Faith</b>			
Thrs, Sept 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Cantor John Fejka	Meyers Family
Fri, Sept 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Gramata <i>(63<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing)</i>	Eleanor & Basil Gramata
Sat, Sept. 30	9:00 a.m. (NS)	Health & Welfare of Fr. John Cigan <i>(birthday 9/29)</i>	Amy & Michael Petruska



**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy after the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Myrona Duggan Bunny Zavidny

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

### The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

Patroness of the Metropolitan Providence — Mirovanije

SUN., OCT 1	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ John Spontak <i>(14<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 10/2)</i>	Son: Robert & Joyce Spontak

## 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 be published.

*Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners*

**Birthdays:** **Sept 25** – CINDY MEADERS, JOYCE SMIECHOWSKI; **Sept 26** – Nicholas Fejka, Daniel Zoldos; **Sept 28** – Agnes Rosko, Millie Sotak; **Sept 29** – Irene Bednar, Kayla Marks;

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuнас, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, MARY SAHAYDA, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Julia Wovchko, SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

**MAPLEWOOD PC HOME** (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Susan Dragosh, Doris Naughton.

**HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER** (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.

**MASONIC VILLAGE** (1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Preganz.

**MARIAN MANOR** (2695 Winchester Dr., Pgh, 15220): Irene Bednar, MICHAEL BARBUSH,

**CHIPPEWA PLACE** (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.

**VALENCIA WOODS OF ST. BARNABAS** (85 Charity Pl., Valencia, PA 16059): Eleanor Kapko.

**SUNRISE OF EAST COBB** (1551 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta, GA 30062): AGNES KNOLL.

**FAIR OAKS ASSISTED LIVING** (2200 W. Liberty Ave., Pgh, 15226): ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK.

**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): William Zavidny.

**UPMC MERCY HEALTH CENTER** (1515 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219): Agnes Rosko.

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

**Q.** Can a Catholic attend a funeral in a non-Catholic church? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Yes, a Catholic may attend a funeral in a non-Catholic faith community. However, a Catholic should be careful not to actually partake in any ritual that is contrary to our Faith or receive communion in a non-Catholic worship service.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**September 24 — September 30, 2017**

(MR): **In memory of Anna Sejak** *(birthday)*  
offered by Family

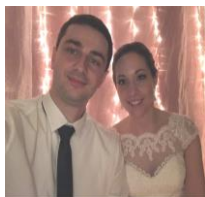
(NS): **In memory of Anna Pungras**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Dgtr: Anna Marie Demianczyk (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



## McKees Rocks Announcements

**UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY** — A Nuptial Wedding Ceremony was celebrated on Friday afternoon, September 15, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. at (MR) Holy Ghost Church for **Mary Elizabeth Kacsur and Subdeacon Vatalii Stashkevych**. Our parish family extends to Mary Elizabeth and Vatalii it's most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes as they begin their new life together as husband and wife. Archbishop Skurla presided at the ceremony. Monsignor Russell A. Duker was the principle celebrant. May God grant them peace, health and salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



**CONVALIDATION MARRIAGE** — A Convalidation Nuptial Wedding Ceremony and Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Saturday morning, September 16, 2017 at 11:00 p.m. at (MR) Holy Ghost Church for **Christine Ann (Koritsky) Barnash and Albert Gary Barnash**. A convalidation marriage occurs when at least one or both of the Catholic individuals seeks to have their civil marriage convalidated before a Catholic Bishop or Priest that was originally conducted outside of the Catholic Church, and to be restored to the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). Our parish family extends to Christine and Albert it's most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes in the spirit of joy. May God grant them peace, health and salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



**GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED FORTHCOMING THIS WEEK** — The weeds and bushes surrounding our Holy Ghost Church really need attention. We also need cleanup in the school. We can't do it without your cooperation! We surely need your help on **Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.**

## Northside Announcements



**RECTORY GETS A NEW ROOF** — Work on replacing the roof of the Church Rectory began this past week. This long overdue project tackled the problem of disintegrating slate especially on the opposite side of the building. Kenyon Roofing, Inc, located in Emsworth received the contract bid of \$10,120.67. Special thanks is extended to those who contributed to this project.

## A Meditation on Today's Gospel (Luke 5:1-11)

### YOU MUST OBEY GOD EVEN IF IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO YOU

For Peter, doing things his own way had failed him, so He gave God's way a try, even though it didn't make any sense to him at the time. Maybe doing things your own way has left you empty, and it's time for you to give God's way a try. Maybe your own knowledge and your own skills have failed you and you need God's power, God's knowledge, and God's skill. You need to do things God's way. Maybe it's time for you today to obey God, and try things His way, even if you don't understand where, why, or how it's all going to work out. It might mean you have to change the way you raise your kids. It might mean to have to get back into your Bible and pray. It might mean you have to change your career. It might mean you have to surrender your life to service in God's kingdom. It might mean for you to quit fighting and run to the cross of Jesus Christ for forgiveness and redemption and a brand new start to life.

## Want Catholic Children? Teach Them the Natural Law!

(The following abridged article appears on the Catholic Answers Magazine Webpage: [www.catholic.com/magazineonline-edition/want-catholic-children-teach-them-the-natural-law](http://www.catholic.com/magazineonline-edition/want-catholic-children-teach-them-the-natural-law))



Ask a child the following question: What would happen if your mom tried to sew buttons onto your shirt using a fork instead of a needle? He or she can understand the silliness, the futility—and even the harm—of using something against its nature or purpose. So let's look at some other "silly" questions but with a focus on our human nature: Is it good to purposely cause a healthy bodily system to malfunction? Can a man become a woman simply by having his private parts mutilated or destroyed? Is it the nature of the reproductive system to be used within another person's digestive tract? Are we ever permitted to target and kill a defenseless and innocent human being? These questions, like the silly question at the beginning, are fundamentally understandable. We are hardwired to "get it," since the soul was created to recognize truth. Just as we humans create and design things with a certain purpose and end in mind, God did the same thing when he created and designed mankind. "What is the nature of a thing?" and "What is the nature of a human being?"—these questions are the basis for understanding the natural law. **Natural law (not to be confused with the laws of nature) is simply another term for the universal moral law, which is inscribed on the heart of every human. Natural law applies to all people and in all eras without exception.** In other words, the natural law is not merely "morality for Catholics" or a "religious thing"—it is universal. The Catechism puts it like this: "*The natural law expresses the original moral sense which enables man to discern by reason the good and the evil, the truth and the lie.*" Unlike truths we know through divine revelation (such as the nature of the Trinity or the sacraments), natural law can be accessed by the light of human reason alone. That is why atheists and believers alike can understand that things like murder, rape, stealing, lying, disrespecting one's parents, and even cutting someone in line are unjust or immoral acts. Now, that doesn't ensure that individual humans will actually obey the moral law, nor that sin or bad formation will not obscure it, but natural law is knowable nonetheless. Pope Leo XIII describes the natural law: **The natural law is written and engraved in the soul of each and every man, because it is human reason ordaining him to do good and forbidding him to sin. . . . But this command of human reason would not have the force of law if it were not the voice and interpreter of a higher reason to which our spirit and our freedom must be submitted (Libertas Praestantissimum).** As anyone can see from the silly questions at the beginning of this article, if we use a thing against its nature or design, things don't go so well. But if we use a thing according to its nature or design, there is flourishing. The same goes for human beings: when we act according to our nature and design, we see human flourishing, which means we see virtue, strong families, and thriving societies. When we act against our nature and design, we get confusion, disorder, and sin. All around us today, we see that people are adrift and disoriented. "*Progressivism, specifically sexual progressivism, is redefining morality so rapidly that we can't be sure that what is acceptable today will still be acceptable tomorrow.*" When we institute relativism as the norm for morality, nothing is fixed, everything is shifting beneath our feet. Because of that, we must bring back a way of teaching that will give people, especially our children, a sure footing. To accomplish this as Catholics, we should look to our patrimony. **St. Paul talks about the natural law explicitly (it's not a new idea): When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them (Rom. 2:14-15) . . .** In just a few decades, we have lost our immemorial acceptance of the natural law and replaced it with the idea that whatever feels right to the individual is morally correct. . . . In just a few decades, we have lost our immemorial acceptance of the natural law and replaced it with the idea that whatever feels right to the individual is morally correct.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24 .....	Social Trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo @ 1:30 pm.
September 30 .....	MR Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
October 1 .....	Feast of the Protection of Mother of God.
October 1-5 .....	Annual Archieparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochean Retreat Center, Ligonier.
October 4 .....	(MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 11 .....	(MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 13 .....	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, Portugal. (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 15 .....	Freewill Pasta Dinner, St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
October 18 .....	(MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 21 .....	Parish Halloween Party at the School Gym following the Divine Liturgy.
October 25 .....	(MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 29 .....	Sunday of Christ the King & Annual Moleben to our 4 saintly bishops.

## Saint of the Day — September 28

### Venerable Father Chariton, the Confessor



Saint Chariton the Confessor was born at Iconium in the Byzantine province of Lycaonia, and suffered there during a persecution against Christians in the reign of Emperor Aurelian (270-275). The example of the holy Protomartyr Thecla (September 24), who was also a native of his city, encouraged him to confess Christ, since he had a great devotion to her. Saint Chariton bravely denounced the pagan gods and staunchly confessed faith in the one True God, Christ the Savior. The holy Confessor underwent fierce tortures but, by God's Providence, he survived. The persecution ended after Aurelian's death in 275. Saint Chariton was among the many Christians who were released from prison, and he resolved to dedicate his entire life to the service of the Lord. *Although he escaped death, he grieved because he had not received the crown of martyrdom.* After arriving at Jerusalem on a pilgrimage to the holy places, he fell into the hands of thieves. They tied him up and threw him in a cave, intending to kill him later. After they left to find people to rob, the saint prayed fervently to God expecting to be put to death. He did not ask God to deliver him, but instead he entreated Him to do with him as He wished. The Lord did deliver him from his enemies. Saint Chariton gave thanks to God, and then he gave away the gold which the malefactors had stolen, distributing it to the poor, to churches, and to monasteries. He began his ascetic struggles in the place of his miraculous rescue, and there he built a church. In time a monastery was established: the renowned Pharan Lavra in Palestine. Saint Chariton's fame drew many disciples to him. He governed them with paternal affection, and he elevated them to the highest degrees of virtue. Saint Chariton compiled a strict Rule for his monastery. Yearning for solitude, the monk withdrew farther into the desert in order to avoid the praise of men, but he never rejected anyone who sought his spiritual guidance. He also brought many Jews and pagans to the Faith. At the end of his life, Saint Chariton struggled in a cave atop a hill near the Souka monastery, but he did not cease to provide guidance for all three of the monasteries which he founded. He fell asleep in the Lord peacefully and at an advanced age on September 28, 350.

## General Announcements

**PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO PRAY & 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, 2017**. Day will begin with a Moleben at 3:00 p.m. marking Clergy Appreciation Week followed by the Dinner. 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 1*. A *freewill offering will be taken for the Priests Pension Plan*.



**PITTSBURGH ZOO SOCIAL TRIP TODAY** — Good News & Bad News: The good news is that our trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo is still a go; however, the bad news is that we could not get 15 individuals to obtain the discounted tickets. You may purchase tickets at the Zoo. Hope to see you there!

**PIROHI REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FORTHCOMING** — There will be an important gathering to see if we have enough workers for the Pirohi Project. It will be a short meeting following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, October 15, 2017**. Please mark this date on your calendar. All are welcome. We need committed workers to make this project a go!

**PLEASE HOLD SUBMITTING 2018 REQUESTS** — Due to a change in staff at the Byzantine Seminary Press, the 2018 Church Calendar Book is taking a little longer to be completed. Some of you have been submitted your intentions for Divine Liturgies and Sanctuary Lamps. An announcement in the S.O.T. will be forthcoming when the book has been received. Thank you for your patience.

**PRAYER DURING NATURAL DISASTERS** — *Compassionate Lord (and Father), we pray for those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss. Bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayers for strength. Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation. May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead. We ask your blessing on all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope. Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance. May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone. Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, with Whom You are blessed together with Your All-Holy, Gracious and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.* (Source: Catholic Relief Services)



**TWO ARCHIEPARCHIAL PRIESTS RECEIVING REHAB** — The following priests would appreciate your prayers following hospitalization: **Archpriest Dennis Bogda** now receiving therapy at the *Canterberry Place, 310 Fisk St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201* & **Fr. Edward Lucas**, retired, at the *Concordia at the Cedars, 4363 Northern Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15146*. I'm sure that sending them a get-well card will also lift their spirits. Let them know that you are from Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks or Northside.