

Parish Offerings – 16th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept. 24, 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

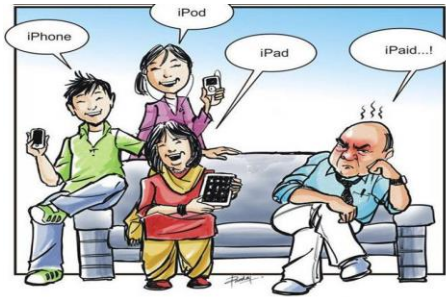
Regular Offering (\$1,463) YP (\$8)	\$1,471.00
Holy Days	45.00
Hurricane 2017	690.00
Votive Candles (\$97) Initial (\$10)	107.00
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	\$2,313.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$528.00
Hurricane 2017	975.00
Utilities	40.00
Votive Candles	50.65
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	\$1,593.65

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (37)
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (85); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (47)



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

Hello, October!

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
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Sewing, Alterations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

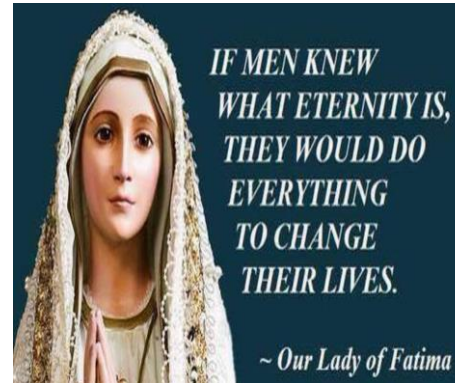
GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
Lodge 390 offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Marge (412) 331-3577

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

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!

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

THE 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos
October 1, 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 – E-Mail: 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

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.
Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.
Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.
GCU Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Randy Baden (412) 973-1085 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)

October 1, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 40



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

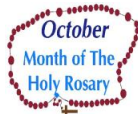
17th Sunday after Pentecost

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 Son: Robert & Joyce Spontak
(14th 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
6:00 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
Thrs, Oct 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) NO DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULED



This week marks the Annual Clergy Retreat at the Antiochean Village, Ligonier, PA. Please keep our Pastor and all clergy in your prayers.

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Fri, Oct 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Judy A. Hopey Theresa Kundrat
(40th day of passing)

First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sat, Oct 7 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Marince Wife: Helen (Holesh)

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 17th Sunday after Pentecost & Holy Protection of Theotokos

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mildred + Michael Tomchak Grandson: Mikey Tomchak



18th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., OCT 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Barbara Fetzer Dgtr: Tam & Frank Revtai

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: Oct 1 – Nanine Cifrulak, Frank Grzywinski, Steven Krempasky, KIMBERLY VALERIANO; Oct 3 – Helenea Conner, James Eberle, George Verner; Oct 4 – MaryEllen Oslick, Hayden Spisak, Steven Usouski; Oct 6 – Marcia Babin, Erin Bates; Oct 7 – Nicholas Nazak II.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliunas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iлона Goyda, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, MARY SAHAYDA, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Julia Wowchko, 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): Beverly Harsh

OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Agnes Rosko

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. A priest told me that those of other faiths who do not believe in purgatory do not have to go to purgatory. How can this be? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven (Catechism 1030). **Note that the Catechism uses the word all and not Catholics. The priest was incorrect.**

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

October 1 — October 7, 2017

(MR): **In memory of Mildred & Michael Tomchak**

offered by Grandson: Mikey Tomchak

(NS): **In memory of John Spontak**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017


offered by Son: Robert & Joyce

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



McKees Rocks Announcements

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!

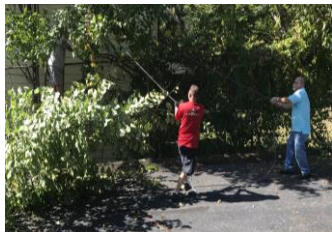
PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The members of the PAC are reminded of the meeting slated for **Monday, October 16, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.** Please place this date on your agenda. 

OCTOBER COFFEE SOCIAL NEXT WEEKEND — On the first full weekend of each month, we will be offering our monthly Coffee & Doughnut Social. Stop down in the Church Basement and enjoy one another's company while having some pastry following each Divine Liturgy. 


MEMORIAM SPECIAL DONATIONS — Over the past few weeks, Holy Ghost Church received several donations in memory of + *Mary O. Culan* who passed away on Labor Day, Sept. 4. The following monetary gifts came from the following: M/M Robert Barley, Beverly Pellegrino, Clarice Dee Pellegrino, Heidi Pellegrino, Renee A. Pellegrino and Alice & Anna May Sejka. The amount totaled \$270.00. God bless these donors who contributed to the Church that Mary loved and cherished.

Northside Announcements

GRATITUDE EXTENDED TO OUR VOLUNTEERS — It was a picture perfect day to do yard work on the parish grounds, as well as cleaning the interior of the Church. Thank you and God's Blessings to all who came to work the premises. We have accomplished much, especially at the lower end of the parking lot. Trees and weeds were cut (see photo) and carried to the dumpster. Our pastor is very grateful to all who sacrificed their time and muscles to ready our Church



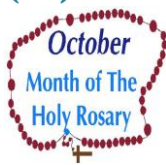
and grounds for the Autumn and Winter Seasons.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The members of the PAC are reminded of the meeting slated for Tuesday, **October 10, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.** Please place this date on your agenda. 

Annual Clergy Retreat this week from October 1 through 5 at the Antiochian Village, Ligonier. Please keep all the Priests 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.

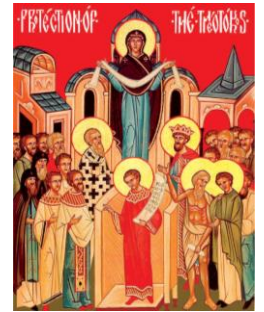


Join us for the Holy Rosary October Wednesday's (MR) at 6:00 p.m. Let us turn to our Holy Virgin Mother under the veil of her holy protection! ***Our Intention: That God may bless us with peace, that the division in our country may be healed and that the hearts of many will turn back to Our Lord and His Church. Let's sacrifice this time as Our Country is depending on our prayer!***



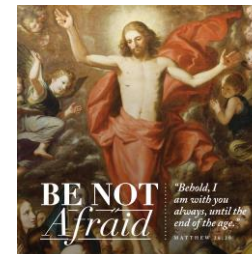
Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

Today, **Oct. 1**, we are celebrating the feast day of the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae (Vlaherna) 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 43 years ago October 1974, Metropolitan Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko along with the bishops of Passaic and Parma consecrated the entire province to her heavenly protection at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.***



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 called to an eternal destiny with him. This year's theme: "**Do not fear: I am with you**" (*Isaiah 41:10 & Mt. 28:*). When battered by life's storms, or immersed in a dense fog of suffering and uncertainty, we may feel alone and unequipped to handle the circumstances. Yet with words that echo through thousands of years into the corners of our hearts, the Lord says to us, "Do not fear: I am with you. He speaks these words not as one who merely observes our pain, but as one who experienced immense suffering. And the very wounds that bear witness to his suffering indicate the essence of our identity and worth: we are loved by God. Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new. He is always with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go. (U.S.C.C.B. website)



1ST WEEK INTENTION OF REPECT LIFE MONTH:

Prayer for all Unborn Children & their Mothers & Fathers

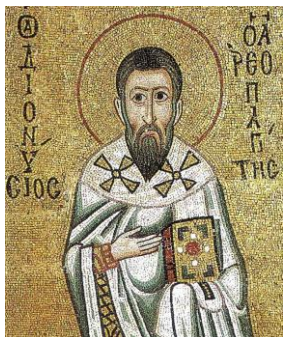
O God, Who adorn creation with splendor and beauty and fashion human lives in Your Image and Likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of Your Hands, and renew among Your people a readiness to nurture and sustain Your precious gift of Human Life. In this may Your Name be blessed and glorified,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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1.....	Feast of the Protection of Mother of God.
October 1-5	Annual Archdiocesan Clergy Retreat at Antiochian Retreat Center, Ligonier.
October 4	(MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 7-8	Coffee & Doughnut Social following each of the weekend Divine Liturgies.
October 11	(MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 13	100 th 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 Week – Oct 3

The Bishop-Martyr Dionysius of Athens



St. Dionysius lived originally in the city of Athens. He was raised there and received a classical Greek education. He then went to Egypt, where he studied astronomy at the city of Heliopolis. It was in Heliopolis, along with his friend Apollonios where he witnessed the solar eclipse that occurred at the moment of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ by Crucifixion. "Either the Creator of the world now suffers, or this visible world is coming to an end," Dionysius said. Upon his return to Athens from Egypt, he was chosen to be a member of the Areopagus Council (Athenian high court). When the holy Apostle Paul preached at the place on the Hill of Ares (Acts 17:16-34), Dionysius accepted his salvific proclamation and became a Christian. For three years Saint Dionysius remained a companion of the holy Apostle Paul in preaching the Word of

God. Later on, the Apostle Paul selected him as bishop of the city of Athens. **In the year 57 St. Dionysius was present at the repose of the Most Holy Theotokos.** During the lifetime of the Mother of God, Saint Dionysius had journeyed from Athens to Jerusalem to meet Her. He wrote to his teacher the Apostle Paul: *"I witness by God, that besides the very God Himself, there is nothing else filled with such divine power and grace. No one can fully comprehend what I saw. I confess before God: when I was with John, who shone among the Apostles like the sun in the sky, when I was brought before the countenance of the Most Holy Virgin, I experienced an inexpressible sensation. Before me gleamed a sort of divine radiance which transfixed my spirit. I perceived the fragrance of indescribable aromas and was filled with such delight that my very body became faint, and my spirit could hardly endure these signs and marks of eternal majesty and heavenly power. The grace from her overwhelmed my heart and shook my very spirit. If I did not have in mind your instruction, I should have mistaken Her for the very God. It is impossible to stand before greater blessedness than this which I beheld."* After the death of the Apostle Paul, St. Dionysius continued preaching in the West, accompanied by the Presbyter Rusticus and Deacon Eleutherius. They converted many to Christ at Rome, and then in Germany, and then in Spain. In Gaul, during a persecution against Christians by the pagan authorities, all three confessors were arrested and thrown into prison. By night St. Dionysius celebrated the Divine Liturgy with angels of the Lord. In the morning the martyrs were beheaded. According to an old tradition, Saint Dionysius took up his head, proceeded with it to the church and fell down dead there. A pious woman named Catulla buried the relics of the saint.

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*.



FUN AT THE ZOO — Last Sunday our Holy Ghost Church had an interesting time at the Pittsburgh Zoo located in the Highland Park section of 'The Burgh!' A total of 8 gathered at the entrance and toured the windee path passing the tigers, elephants (seen in the background of the photo), monkeys, giraffes, etc. The Polar Bears were nowhere to be found. I guess it was just too hot! The Zoo is just one of many attractions that the City of Pittsburgh has that makes it so special. If you've never been at the Zoo or hadn't for some time, it is well-worth the trip and a great place for the young and the young of heart. Make sure that you take your Shop n Save card for a discount.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: COME & SEE WEEKEND — Young men 18-35 are invited to a **FREE Weekend of Discovery retreat**, Friday through Sunday, **November 3-4-5, 2017** 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. E-mail your reply to: vocations@archeparchy.org. **Last day for registration is Oct. 19.**



ANNUAL MOLEBEN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CAUSES — The yearly prayer service for the advancement of the Causes of Beatification and Canonization of our four holy Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Bishops will take place at St. John the Baptist Church, Uniontown, PA on **Sunday of Christ the King, October 29, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m.** For the past 30 years faithful through the Pittsburgh Archeparchy have gathered in various archdiocesan parishes, monasteries and the seminary to pray for the Canonization of Bishop-Martyr Theodore G. Romzha, Uzhorod (+1947); Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gojdich, O.S.B.M., Presov (+1960); Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko, Presov (+1976); and for the beatification of the Servant of God Bishop Alexander Chira, Uzhorod (+1985). A Marian Moleben is offered seeking the aid of the Holy Mother of God in helping us achieve this end. Please mark your calendar and attend this important prayer for their advancement. This is also the Parish's Annual Rusyn Heritage Day.

