

Parish Offerings – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost – Nov. 5, 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 (\$2,693) YP (\$13)	\$2,706.00
Holy Days (\$75) Collection for the Poor (\$30)	105.00
Thanksgiving (\$5) Christmas Décor (\$5) Coffee Social (\$16.50)	26.50
Archdiocesan Charities (\$436) Votive Candles (\$133.55)	569.55
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	\$3,407.05

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

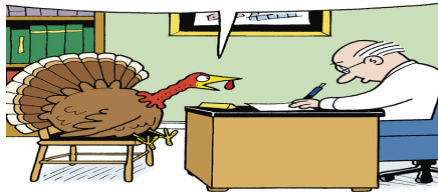
Regular Offering	\$650.00
Holy Days (\$65) Thanksgiving (\$15)	80.00
Utilities (\$35) Improvement (\$65)	100.00
Special Donation (In mem of + Agnes Knoll by: Dgtr: Leslie O’Donnell (\$1,000) & Cary & Elizabeth Ehrenfeld (\$25)	1,025.00
Archdiocesan Charities (\$18) Votive Candles (\$25)	43.00
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	\$1,898.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (46)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (83); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)

...AND FARMER BROWN GETS NOTHING IF I DIE UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES...



To All Veterans
 Whether At Home Or Abroad
 Active Duty ~ Reserves ~ Retired
All Americans Say:
THANK YOU!

Valerian F. Szal
 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

Happy November

DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 262-9141
 Nancde@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
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

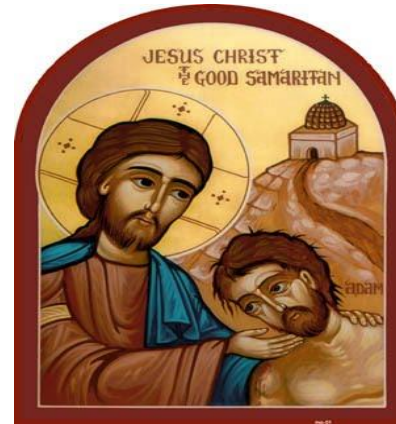
This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc.
Call the office (412) 771-3324

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 23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 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.
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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!

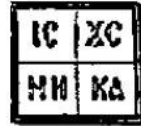
THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

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)

November 12, 2017 Seasonal Greeting Volume VII, Number 46



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., NOV 12 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Mildred Terrek (birthday 11/9)
Dgtrs: Christine, Michele & Monica



11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Feast of Saint, John Chrysostom

Mon, Nov 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Thomas E. Ray, Jr. Eberle Family
(7th ann of passing 11/12)



Feast of the Holy Apostle Philip

Tue, Nov 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John J. Jumba Janet Herczak

Commencement of the Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Wed, Nov 15 (1) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael + Andrew, Jr. Sister: + Elizabeth Mross
+ John Margo

Feast of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

Thrs, Nov 16 (2) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret "Peg" Krulac + Elsie Eberle

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

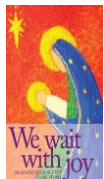
for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Fri, Nov 17 (3) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Hrivnak (46th ann of passing) Grandson: Fr. Firko

Sat., Nov 18 (4) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Gladys A. Schlott (memoral) Mary Ann Smoley

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Margaret + Steve Kosko Son: Steve & Dolores Kosko



24th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Nov 19 (5) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka Children

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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: Nov 14 – MILAN JUGAN; Nov 15 – Barbara Feldman; Nov 16 – Maria Iyengar, Paul Rubish Nov 17 – Kathleen Marks; Nov 18 – Andrew Nazak, Amanda Singel.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Belunas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Julia Wovchko.

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.

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

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

CARING HEIGHTS (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Beverly Harsh

MANOR CARE (1848 Greentree Road., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Millie Sotak

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. May I name my guardian angel? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: No, the Church directs us not to do so, but you may certainly cultivate a relationship with your guardian angel, to whom you can refer as "my guardian angel" or "my angel." In the Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, the Church provides, "Popular devotion to the holy angels, which is legitimate and good, can, however, also give rise to possible deviations The practice of assigning names to the holy angels should be discouraged, except in the cases of Gabriel, Raphael, and Michael whose names are contained in Holy Scripture" (no. 217).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 12 — November 18, 2017

(MR): In memory of Eleanor & John Kulka

offered by Children: Kathy & John Kulka

(NS): In memory of Tommy Seman

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Sister: A. Velma Seman

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

McKees Rocks Announcements

PHILIPPIAN FAST PIROHI SALES UNDERWAY — We have commenced our five week Pirohi Project this past Friday in preparation for Christmas. Remaining sales are **November 17, NO SALES ON NOVEMBER 24, December 1, 8 & 15. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, and/or by phone on Wednesdays only from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155.** We will only be making a limited amount under this continued format. Eat-ins will still be available. We still need everyone's assistance in getting the word out to the public. Please take a few posters and place them where others will notice them. The posters are located at the entrances of the Church. Also thank you to the anonymous donors who purchased the flour. It is greatly appreciated! Also, the Pirohi Project extends a huge thank you to Slavjane for volunteering to setup the tables for the sales. It is greatly appreciated



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE — In our love for the less fortunate, we will be holding our annual non-perishable food drive to be delivered to *Focus On Renewal* in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please bring the non-expired items to the Church and place them at the entrance. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092. Once again, we are grateful to her for leading this project



CHURCH DECORATING FORTHCOMING — We will begin decorating the Church for Christmas on Monday, **December 4, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.** Please make an effort to come and give a helping hand. We're going to need muscle power for the heavy work of setting up the trees.



GRATITUDE TO ALL PRESENT FOR THIS PAST WEEK'S ORDINATION — Our pastor would like to thank all of you who responded to his request to attend the Diaconate Ordination of Deacon Vitalii Stashkevych on Wednesday, Nov. 8th, Your presence really made a difference in celebrating this auspicious Holy Ghost Church event. God bless you for your love and sacrifice!

Northside Announcements

CHURCH DECORATING FORTHCOMING — We will begin decorating the Church for Christmas following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, **December 3, 2017.** Please make an effort to come and give a helping hand. We're going to need muscle power for the heavy work of setting up the trees

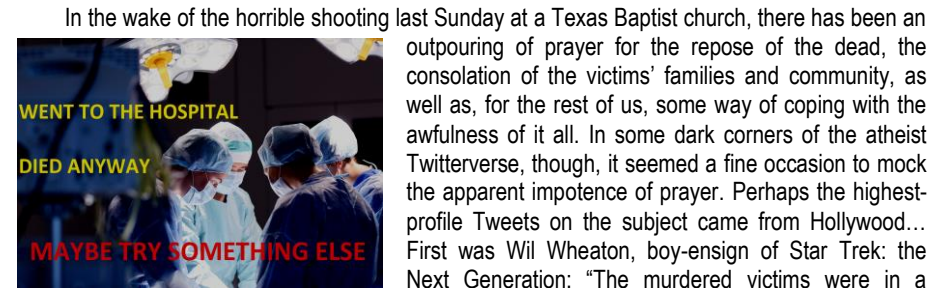


WHEN LIGHTING CANDLES IN CHURCH — Please do not begin to light a candle and then decide to blow it out. The next person doesn't want it either. Also, refrain from placing the charred stick residue in the candle that you are not lighting. Candles are costly! Help us to avoid waste! Thank you for your consideration!

Place your pirohi orders on the sheet provided in narthex/side vestibule

Catholic Apologists Answers: Is Prayer Pointless?

(Due to a lack of space, the following abridged article appears on the Catholic Answers Magazine Webpage: www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/is-prayer-pointless) The author is Catholic Apologist: Todd Agliarolo.



In the wake of the horrible shooting last Sunday at a Texas Baptist church, there has been an outpouring of prayer for the repose of the dead, the consolation of the victims' families and community, as well as, for the rest of us, some way of coping with the awfulness of it all. In some dark corners of the atheist Twitterverse, though, it seemed a fine occasion to mock the apparent impotence of prayer. Perhaps the highest-profile Tweets on the subject came from Hollywood... First was Wil Wheaton, boy-ensign of Star Trek: the Next Generation: "The murdered victims were in a church. If prayer did anything, they'd still be alive..." There are theological and apologetical issues at stake here for all believers. How can we respond?

Here are three suggestions. **1. Not everything worthwhile works all the time:** History and the present day are full of human solutions to problems. Some have been terrible (Communism), some were moderately effective but flawed and eventually replaced (the iron lung), some are effective to a degree and still in use (chemotherapy). Few, even in our age of marvels, are perfect. Nonetheless we value they good they do. We don't mock them even if they sometimes don't solve the problem. But for those already hostile to religion, prayer is a special case. **That people praying in a church became victims of horrible violence is enough to discredit prayer entirely. Next time you engage someone who says that, ask him why he bothers going to the doctor.** When it comes to prayer, we might also add that it may not always seem to work in the way we expect or desire. Which is only logical: prayer is not magic, and God is not a genie. When we invoke divine aid we should reasonably expect it to come, if we're right and it does come, according to divine priorities. Otherwise it was never divine aid; it was human wish-fulfillment. **2. Prayer does work:** If the past is full of human interventions, it's also full of divine interventions. Not just the big, miraculous ones that we find in the Bible or—like *the rosary saving Europe from the Turks* — in history books, but small and personal ones, too. Countless people past and present attest that prayer does bring consolation to the suffering. It does set our lives on new paths. It does help people beat addictions and vices. It does fill voids in our soul that worldly things cannot. Therefore, there's nothing crazy or fanciful about praying for those affected by that vicious shooting in Texas. It's a sound response rooted in widespread human experience. Yes, it's possible that the effects of prayer are all coincidences or common delusions, but without good arguments to this point those who mock such prayers deserve themselves to be mocked: for denying a plain reality without good reason. **3. Prayer isn't all we do:** Even though—to say it again—the post-shooting prayers were meant for consolation and peace, not for ending violent crime everywhere, implicit in the mockery of those prayers is the suggestion that those who pray don't act. If only we stopped reciting prayers to our God and started making phone calls to our congresspersons, the charge goes, we might see real results. But this charge also fails to find root in reality. **Most if not all Christians follow some variant of the wise advice, "Trust in God—but lock your car."** Most if not all Christians are well aware of the fallen world we live in and of the need to take worldly measures to preserve peace and promote justice. Most if not all Christians strive to act with as much conviction as they pray. Ora et labora, (pray and work) goes the monastic motto. Indeed, we have centuries of Christian tradition on how to marry the divine order with the secular. So this is the most brittle of straw men. Moreover, it lays bare the poverty of the prayer-skeptics' worldview. What if, by rejecting prayer, they're missing out on something big? ... So in your next encounter with skeptics or mockers, whether in a comment box or lunchroom, offer to pray for or with them. What do they have to lose?

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 15 Commencement of the Philippian (Filipovka) Fast.
 November 19 G.C.U. Lodge Meeting (election of new officers) @ 2:00 p.m.
 Byzan-Teen Haluski Sale follows the morning Divine Liturgy.
 November 21 .. Solemn HD: Entrance into the Temple of Theotokos (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 November 23 Annual Thanksgiving Day — (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.
 December 3 (MR) Parish & Archeparchial St. Nicholas Celebration.
 Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 December 4 Decorating the (MR) Church for Christmas @ 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Day — November 13

Our Father Among the Saints, John Chrysostom

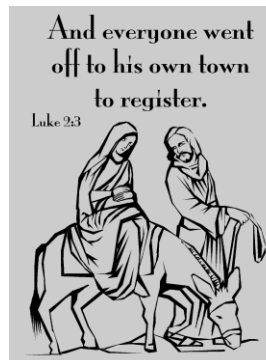


John was born in Antioch in the year 354. His father, Secundus, was an imperial commander and his mother's name was Anthusa. Studying Greek philosophy, John became disgusted with Hellenic paganism and adopted the Christian Faith as the one and all-embracing truth. Meletius, Patriarch of Antioch, baptized John, and his parents also subsequently received baptism. Following his parents' repose, John was tonsured a monk and lived a strict life of asceticism. He then wrote a book, *On the Priesthood*, after which the Holy Apostles John and Peter appeared to him, and prophesied that he would have a life of great service, great grace and great suffering. When he was to be ordained a priest, an angel of God appeared simultaneously to John and to Patriarch Flavian (Meletius's successor). While the patriarch was

ordaining John, a shining white dove was seen hovering over John's head. Glorified for his wisdom, asceticism and power of words, John was chosen as Patriarch of Constantinople at the behest of Emperor Arcadius. As patriarch, he governed the Church for six years with unequalled zeal and wisdom. He sent missionaries to the pagan Celts and Scythians and eradicated simony in the Church, deposing many bishops guilty of this vice. He extended the charitable works of the Church and wrote a special order of the Divine Liturgy. He shamed the heretics, denounced Empress Eudoxia, interpreted Holy Scripture with his golden mind and tongue, and bequeathed the Church many precious books of his homilies. The people glorified him, the envious loathed him, and the Empress, on two occasions, sent him into exile. John spent three years in exile, and reposed as an exile on the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross, September 14, 407, in the town of Comana in Georgia. Before his repose, the Holy Apostles John and Peter appeared to him again, as did the Holy Martyr Basiliscus (May 22) in whose church he received Communion for the last time. His last words were, "Glory be to God for all things," and with that, the soul of the golden-mouthed patriarch was taken into Paradise.

General Announcements

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS — This Wednesday, Nov. 15, marks the beginning of our journey through the **PHILIPPIAN FAST**. It is called the Philippian Fast (**Filipovka** in Church Slavonic) since it begins the day after the Apostle Phillip's Feast. It is comparable to the Western Rite's Advent Season. The Byzantine Catholic Church does not use the Latin Language to describe this penitential season, since it's traditional language is based on the Greek. This minor penitential period directs us to prepare ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. May we allow Him to be reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. Through prayer, abstinence,



almsgivings of mercy, frequent confession of sins, and additional attendances at the Divine Liturgies we can accomplish this end. Together as a parish, let us collectively next week begin to practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (required) for the intention for the return of our beloved back to the fullness of the Faith.

ARCHIEPARICHAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION — The 60th Annual St. Nicholas Celebration will take place at the Cathedral and Cathedral Center on **Sunday, December 3, 2017**. Tickets are priced at \$40.00 per adult and \$18.00 per child ages 12 and under. We'd like to get at least one full table per parish family. Please sign the list in the (MR) Side Vestibule; (NS) Narthex. **Parish deadline is today, November 12.**



ADDITIONAL DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS NOW AVAILABLE IN 2018 — A good many of the Weekend Divine Liturgy times and Sanctuary Lamps have already been reserved for 2018. Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend (per candle/DL) in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and how you wish it to appear in the S.O.T. Place it in the collection basket. If your requested date has already been reserved by someone else, you will be giving another date closest to you request! **There is no limit as to the number you may reserve as of today.** Thanks to all who are participating in this spiritual program! These are two great ways to remember your beloved departed!



GCU LODGE 390 FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING NEXT WEEK — Lodge members are reminded of the 4th quarterly meeting next Sunday, **November 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.** in the MR church basement. Members are urged to attend this important meeting since there will be the election of new officers.



NEIGHBORING CHURCH HOLDING A TURKEY BINGO — The Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist, 2688 California Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 is holding a Turkey Bingo on Sunday, November 19. Door open at 2:00 p.m. Games at 3:00 p.m. Call for additional information (412) 766-4691.