

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of Man Born Blind— May 21, 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 (\$1,553) YP (\$3) .....	\$1,556.00
Holy Days (\$35) Easter (\$210) .....	245.00
Seminary (\$5) Initial (\$15) .....	20.00
Votive Candles .....	122.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,943.00

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$642.00
HD (\$76) Utilities (\$20) Improvements (\$18) .....	114.00
Seminary (\$5) Peter’s Pence (\$5) .....	\$10.00
Votive Candles .....	57.50
	<hr/>
	\$823.50

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (43)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (76); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (37)

Vigil of the Ascension Thursday, May 24 – Wed.(MR) 7:00 pm (18)

Ascension Thursday, May 25 – (MR) 9:00 am (31); (NS) 6:00 pm (30)



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

**SUNDAY OF 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUMENCIL COUNCIL**

**Ascension Postfestive — Memorial Weekend**

**May 28, 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)**

**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*

**LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE**

**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
 235 McCartney Drive,  
 Moon Township 15108  
 Phone: (412) 262-9141  
[Nannde@aol.com](mailto:Nannde@aol.com)  
**Nancy C. Debranski**  
*Sewing, Alternations, 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

**Individuals may sponsor an ad or greeting for a weekly or monthly price. Call the office for rates!**

**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!**

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 Margaret Beliunas (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!

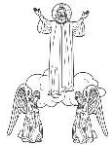
# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Let us honor today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, namely the God-mantled Fathers who speaking of divine things sang in the midst of the Church a hymn in unison, teaching that the Trinity is one, not differing in substance or Godhead, refuting Arius and defending the true faith. They always intercede with the Lord to have mercy on our souls (Great Vespers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council Fathers)

May 28, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 22



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUM. COUNCIL</b>			
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday — Memorial Weekend</b>			
<b>SUN., May 28</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. (MR)</b>	+ Rose A. Debranski ( <i>birthday</i> )	Dgtr: Nancy
	<b>11:00 a.m. (NS)</b>	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
<b>Memorial Day Observed</b>			
Mon, May 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ All Who Died in the Service of our Country	
Tue, May 30	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elizabeth Mross ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 5/27</i> )	Jan Herczak
Wed, May 31	*7:30 a.m. (MR)	+ Charles Kundrat	M/M Michael Ferrell
	*Clergy informational Days at St. John Cathedral, Munhall on May 30-31		
Thrs, Jun 1	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Paczan Stefanick	Family
<b>The Final Day of the Ascension Feast</b>			
<b>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or an Equivalent Penance (your choice)</b>			
Fri, Jun 2	 8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fran Klobchar	Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar
		(2 <sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 5/27)	

### Fifth & Final Universal All Souls Saturday Vigil

6:00 p.m. (NS) All Souls w/Reading of Hramoty

### FIFTH & FINAL UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat., Jun 3 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/Reading of Hramoty

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Joseph F. Pospychala Dale, Kathy & Carly Charochak

## SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

### Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast — MIROVANJE

SUN., Jun 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Lillian + Joseph Buchko Children & Grand-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:** May 28 – Anne Kurtanich; May 31 – Doris Naughton; Jun 1 – Barbara Bordas, Mary Culan (106).

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Gregory Fejka, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, 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): MICHAEL BARBUSH, Irene Bednar.

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

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

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

**CARING HEIGHTS** (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Margaret Beliuinas.

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

**Q.** What is meant by "indifference"? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Indifference means that we have an attitude that either something doesn't matter or that disparate things are essentially the same. Indifference can manifest itself in the false idea that because God is merciful we can sin without consequence. Indifference can also manifest itself in a resignation that because bad things happen then we are not obligated to resist evil or do good. Indifference of religion is the false notion that most or all religions are essentially the same and none contains more truth than another.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**May 28 — June 3, 2017**

(MR): **Thanksgiving** (65<sup>th</sup> Wed. Ann. 5/15)

offered by Dolores & Ted Babin

(NS): **In memory of Margaret & George Krulac** (Wed. Ann.)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

**MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE of Our Two Parishes in appreciation to Veterans this week on WWNL 1080 AM — Mon: 6-8am; Tues: 7-9am; Wed: 8-10 am; Thrs: 4-6 pm; Fri: 4-6 pm.**



# McKees Rocks Announcements

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* offers its most sincere condolences to the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Uniontown, PA and friends of + **Sister Jean Marie Cihota, O.S.B.M.** who unexpectedly passed into eternity on Thursday, May 18, 2017. She had been the Director of Religious Education here at our Parish in the 1980's. She was currently serving in the Eparchy of Phoenix, AZ. The Funeral Divine Liturgy for a Religious Nun was celebrated on Wednesday, May 24 at 10:30 a.m. by Archbishop Skurla as the main celebrant in the Monastery Chapel. Interment followed on the grounds at Calvary Cemetery. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, the Basilian Nun, + Sr. Jean Marie, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'! **CHRIST IS RISEN!**



**OUR PIONEER AND BELOVED PARISHIONER MARKS ANOTHER BIRTHDAY** — Our Holy Ghost Parish extends a Most Special Birthday Greeting and Prayerful Best Wishes to **Mrs. Mary Culan**, 1026 First Street, McKees Rocks, PA 15136 who will be celebrating her **106<sup>th</sup> Birthday** on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. She is convalescing at home. I'm sure that she would appreciate a birthday card from her parish family. Even if you may not remember Mrs. Culan, sign a card and say that you are a parishioner of Holy Ghost Church! May God grant to His servant, Mary, peace, health & salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

## Holy Ghost, Northside

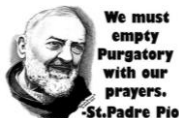
**CHURCH RECTORY CURRENTLY VACANT** — For the past 9 months the Church Rectory has been occupied by the Washut Family. Kyle Washut was appointed as an adjunct professor at our Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh. The seminary has asked that if he and his family could set up residence until the middle of May 2017. Consulting with the Parish Advisory Council, Fr. Firko gave permission with the stipulation that the seminary take care of the utilities. An agreement was rendered. The Washut Family are returning to Wyoming. The seminary is looking to have the same arrangements for a future border for the September academic year. This will be discussed at our next PAC Meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Questionnaire for the 2018 Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment Your Invitation to participate in the Synod: Following is the Questionnaire which the Vatican has issued in preparation for the Synod. You can complete it right on this website. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability. Kindly go all the way to the end and remember to mark DONE, so your responses can be included in the document which I will present to the Synod. Thank you for your cooperation and your time. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/archpitt>

*William C Skurla*

**FINAL ALL SOULS COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK** — The 5<sup>th</sup> and Final All Souls commemoration will be offered this coming **Friday, June 2 (NS); and Saturday, June 3 (MR)**. This final Eucharistic Service in behalf of all Souls comes a day prior to The *Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, also known as Pentecost*. Our prayer is directed to God the Holy Spirit so as to grant eternal rest and a blessed repose to All Souls, especially the names submitted earlier. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'! Come & pray for their repose!

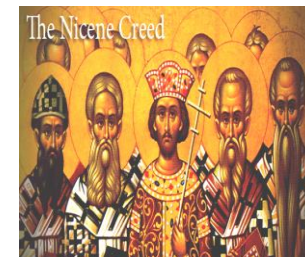


# THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA

## The Core of Our Common Faith (first read John 17: 1-13)

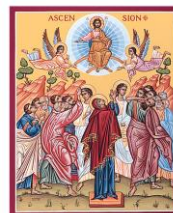
### Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Today, we are commemorating the Fathers of The First Council of Nicea held in the year 325 AD. It is the first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. *Most significantly, it resulted in the first, extra-biblical, uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.* With the creation of the creed, a precedent was established for subsequent local and regional councils of Bishops (Synods) to create statements of belief and canons of the true faith — the intent being to define unity of essential beliefs for the whole of Christendom. The council did not create the doctrine of the deity of Christ but it did settle, to some degree, the debate within the Early Christian communities regarding the divinity of Christ. This idea of the divinity of Christ, along with the idea of Christ as a messenger from God (The Father), had long existed in various parts of the Roman Empire. The divinity of Christ had also been widely endorsed by the Christian community in the otherwise pagan city of Rome. The council affirmed and defined what it believed to be the teachings of the Apostles regarding who Christ is: that Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father. Derived from Greek "ecumenical" meaning "worldwide or universal." One purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements arising from within the Church of Alexandria over the nature of the Son in relationship to the Father. St. Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius claimed that Christ is God and the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arianism comes, denied this claim. The council decided against the Arians overwhelmingly. Of the estimated 318 attendees, all but two agreed to sign the creed and these two, along with Arius, were banished to Illyria. Another result of the council was an agreement on when to celebrate Easter, the most important feast of the ecclesiastical calendar.



## Our Christian Responsibility & Duty

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION LAST WEEK** — This past Thursday was **Ascension Thursday** and a Holy Day of Obligation. The Canon Law of our Byzantine Catholic Church states: *"The Christian faithful are bound by the obligation to participate on Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation) at the Divine Liturgy ..."* (Canon 881#1); and *"are recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on these days ..."* (Canon 881 #3); *"and should abstain from those labors or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God ..."* (Canon 881 #4). *Neglectful fulfillment of this precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.*



**2 Weeks Remaining to fulfill Your Easter Duty!**

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29 .....	Memorial Day observed; special Divine Liturgy @ 8:00 a.m.
May 30 through 31 .....	Clergy Information Days at St. John Cathedral, Munhall.
June 2.....	5 <sup>th</sup> & Final All Souls Commemoration at (NS) @ 6:00 p.m. – June 3 - (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
June 3 .....	Helping Hands Day, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown
June 4 .....	Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast. ..... Patronal Dinner Celebration & Honoring all our Parish Graduates @ 1:00 pm
June 10 .....	Slavjane 41 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Concert @ 6:00 p.m. (cf. article).
June 11 .....	Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling the Easter Duty Precept. ..... A special G.C.U. Lodge 390 Quarterly Meeting @ (MR) 2:00 p.m.
June 12 .....	MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
June 13 .....	NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
June 14 .....	GCU Lodge 390 Flag Day Ceremony @ 7:00 p.m.
June 18 .....	Annual Father's Day.
June 23 .....	Vigil Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (NS) 6:00 p.m.
June 24 .....	Solemn Holy Day: Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (MR) 9:00 a.m.

## Saint of the Week — May 29

### The Virgin-Martyr Theodosia of Tyre

Saint Theodosia of Tyre lived during the third and fourth centuries. Once, during a persecution against Christians, which had already lasted for five years, the seventeen-year-old Theodosia went up to the condemned Christian prisoners in the Praetorium in Caesarea, Palestine. It was the day of Holy Pascha, and the martyrs spoke about the Kingdom of God. Saint Theodosia asked them to remember her before the Lord, when they should come to stand before Him. Soldiers saw that the maiden bowed to the prisoners, and they seized her and led her before the governor, Urban. The governor advised the maiden to offer sacrifice to the idols but she refused, confessing her faith in Christ. Then they subjected the saint to cruel tortures, raking her body with iron claws until her bones were exposed. The martyr was silent and endured the sufferings with a happy face, and to a second suggestion by the governor to offer sacrifice to the idols she answered, *"You fool, I have been granted to join the martyrs!"* They threw the maiden with a stone about her neck into the sea, but angels drew her out from the depths. Then they threw the martyr to the wild beasts to be eaten by them. Seeing that the beasts would not touch her, they cut off her head. By night Saint Theodosia appeared to her parents, who had tried to talk their daughter into not going to the sufferings. She was in bright garb with a crown upon her head and a luminous gold cross in her hand, and she said, *"Behold the great glory of which you wanted to deprive me!"* The Holy Martyr Theodosia of Tyre suffered for Christ in the year 307 or 308. On May 29 we commemorate the transfer of her relics to Constantinople and Venice. She is also commemorated on April 3.



## General Announcements

**LAST DAY FOR TICKETS: PATRONAL PENTECOST DINNER** — Our Patronal Feast Day Dinner at the (MR) school hall is being planned for **Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017 @ 1:00 p.m.** This special celebration will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our MR Church Building; and the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our NS Holy Ghost Church. We will also honor our upcoming high school and college graduates at this time. All Members of both Holy Ghost Parishes of MR & NS are asked to put this day aside so as to glorify God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) during these green holy days! The event will be catered by Cooked Goose Catering. **The menu will be: Stuffed Pork Chop Dinner Red Skin Potatoes, Mixed Vegetable and Tossed Salad. The Children's menu only will consist of Chicken Tenders along with Mac & Cheese.** Tickets are now available following the Divine Liturgies. Due to the celebration of our special anniversaries the Church will be subsidizing the remainder of the costs. The special prices are: ACTIVE PARISHIONERS (13 & Over) \$10.00; GUESTS are welcome for \$13.00 Children's price \$5.00. You may also contact Norma Kacsur (412) 331-4864 or the Church Office (412) 771-3324. The Church will also subsidize the Graduates meal and all remaining costs. Deadline is today, May 28.



**GRADUATES REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED** — Our Holy Ghost Church would like to honor all of our High School and College Graduates on the occasion of our Patronal Feast, **June 4** All MR & NS graduates will be our guests and receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must phone or email the church office with the following information: (1) *University/College of Graduation; Date of Graduation;* (3) *Graduating Degree;* (4) *Future plans and employment;* and (4) *will you be attending the Recognition Luncheon.* Deadline is today, May 28. Thus far only 1 has registered.



**GCU LODGE 390 UPCOMING QUARTERLY MEETING** — A special quarterly Lodge meeting date has been revised for **Sunday, June 11, 2017 in the MR Gym @ 2:00 p.m.** Members, please mark your calendars. Following the meeting, food and raffles will take place.

**SLAVJANE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONCERT TICKETS** — The *Slavjane Folk Ensemble* will be celebrating their annual Dinner-Theater at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, PA on **Saturday, June 10, 2017. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. & Concert @ 6:00 p.m.** The Reception will then follow in the Church Hall. Donation is Adult - \$5.00; Students under 16 – No Charge. The Reception Music will be by Okrestar Zabava. Contact Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351. If you have never attended a Slavjane Performance, this is the one of the greatest!



Tickets are now available, get yours today!

**PLEASE TAKE CHURCH BULLETINS HOME WITH YOU** — Over the past few months, several S.O.T. Church Bulletins have been found in the pews. Perhaps it's because they have been read prior to the Divine Liturgy. Take this precious time to offer your prayers, examine your conscience, meditate on God's Word, etc. There is plenty of time to read the Church Bulletin at home.