

Parish Offerings – Sunday after Theophany

Jan. 8, 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 (\$1,515) YP (\$9)	\$1,524.00
Holy Days (\$456) YP (\$4)	460.00
Initial (\$125) YP (\$4) B.C.W. (\$251) Coffee Social (\$11)	391.00
Votive Candles	130.00
	\$2,505.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$379.50
Holy Days	35.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvement (\$40) Initial (\$35) B.C.W. (\$56)	151.00
Votive Candles	44.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$609.55

New Year 2017 Begins — (MR) Sat., 4:00 pm. (47);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am. (61); (NS) 11:00 am. (31)

Jan. 5th Holy Theophany Eve (MR) 7:00 p.m. (11)

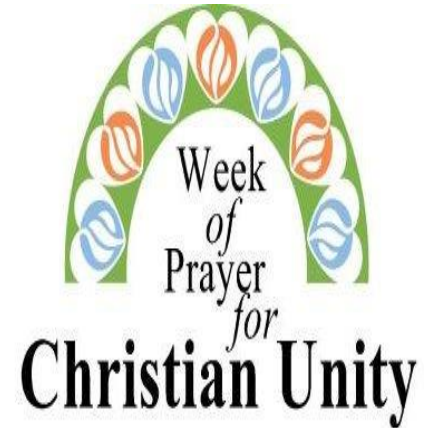
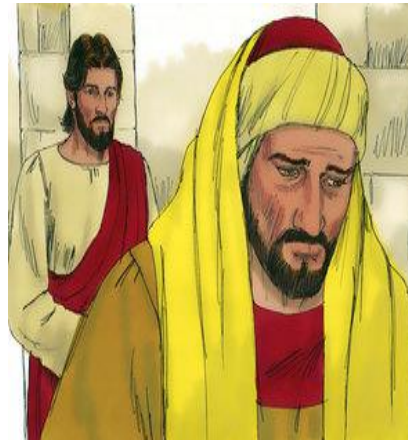
Jan 6th Feast of Holy Theophany — (MR) 9:00 am (35); (NS) 6:00 pm (32)



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

The 35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

January 15, 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: (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

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

HERE WE GO

Steelers

DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nancde@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
*Sewing, Alternations, Custom
 Embroidery and Unique Gifts*

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.

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

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**Sponsor &
 Ad Space
 Available**

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

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).

Jan 15, 2017

Christian Greeting

Volume VII, Number 3

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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
35th Sunday after Pentecost			
SUN., JAN 15	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Maletz	Son: Bob & Martha
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (birthday 1/12)	Children & Grandchildren
Martin Luther King, Jr. — Federal Holiday			
Mon, Jan 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna Pungras (15 th ann. of passing)	Dgtr: Anna Pungras Demianczyk
Tue, Jan 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare of Dolores Kosko	Marge & Tiny Lautenschlager
Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity			
Wed., Jan 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Frank Mazur	Elaine Kurtanich
2nd day of prayer for Christian Unity			
Thrs., Jan 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John J. Jumba	Cousin: John Jumba
3rd day of prayer for Christian Unity			
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance for Peace in the whole world			
Fri., Jan 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Sharon Ann Maletz	Parents: Martha & Bob
4th day of prayer for Christian Unity			
Sat., Jan 21	9:00 a.m. (NS)	Funeral Divine Liturgy & Christian Burial of + Michael Lorenc	

Anticipated Sunday Divine Liturgy for the 36th Sunday after Pentecost			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Andrew Yakubik	Olga Greshak
36th Sunday after Pentecost			
5th day of prayer for Christian Unity			
SUN., JAN 22	9:00 a.m. (MR)	Health of Margaret Beliuнас	
	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: Jan 15 – William Boros, WILLIAM GOGAL; Jan 16 – Edward Connor; Jan 19 – Barbara Lutz; Jan 21 – KIRK LATTA, Nicholas Nazak I, Julia Wovchko

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Debra Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, GERARD SLAGLE, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Claudia Verner, Julia Wovchko.

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

OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Margaret Beliuнас, Mildred Terrek.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it okay to buy a lottery ticket? I know we are not supposed to gamble. **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** The Church does not forbid gambling, so long as it is done responsibly and the money used for gambling is not needed for other legitimate obligations. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement. Unfair wagers and cheating at games constitute grave matter, unless the damage inflicted is so slight that the one who suffers it cannot reasonably consider it significant. (CCC 2413)

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 15 — January 21, 2017

(MR): **In memory of Agnes Bialek**

offered by Dgtr: Eileen Finnegan & Family

(NS): **In memory of Michael Lorinc**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Anonymous

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the unexpected passing of **Bernard Sendro, 63**, of Washington, PA, on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at his home. He was the Sister-In-Law of parishioner, Janet Sendro. Mass of Christian Burial was offered at the Immaculate Conception Roman Rite Church, Washington on Sat., Jan 14. Interment was at the parish cemetery. Our parish offers its most sincere condolences and prayerful support to the family. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, Bernard, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'



REMINDER: CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED TOMORROW — We no sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it will be time to dismantle it for another year. We will gather tomorrow, **Monday, January 16, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.** and ask an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider assisting us, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.



Northside Announcements

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED — We no sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it will be time to dismantle it for another year. **Following today's Sunday Divine Liturgy on January 15, 2017**, we ask an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider assisting us, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.



Remember to discard last year's Sanctified Water in a respectable manner and place! It is not to be poured down the drain!

HOLY & SANCTIFIED WATER ALWAYS AVAILABLE — For those who



haven't taken the newly 2017 Sanctified Water from the container in front of the church, please note that at the dismantling of the Christmas decorations today and tomorrow, it will be transferred to the special containers located at the (MR) Side Vestibule, and in the (NS) Narthex and remain throughout the year. Please use the Sanctified Water whether in drinking or anointing yourselves frequently, especially in times of illness, temptation, decision-making, in remembrance of your baptism especially on it's anniversary, and also in remembrance of departed loved ones. It is a powerful sacramental of the church.

The Natural Law: A Guide for How to Be Human

By Catholic Apologist: Karlo Broussard December 14, 2016

The Catholic Church is often ridiculed when it comes to its moral teachings. Whether it's Church teaching on contraception, so-called "same-sex" marriage, the acting out of transgender ideologies, homosexual acts, or abortion, popular culture tends to view the Church as some evil tyrant trying to tell people how to live their lives. What amazes me is how little the Church's critics understand why the Church teaches such things. They fail to realize that behind the teachings about which specific acts are right or wrong is the general standard of determining what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate human behavior, which in turn rests on an understanding of what constitutes the good and



the bad. **A good or bad oak tree?** Consider now an oak tree. Let's say we have one oak tree that has strong roots and sinks its roots deep into the ground, and the other has weak roots and doesn't sink its roots deep into the ground. Which one is the good oak tree? Which one is the bad? Obviously, the former is the good oak tree, since it does what an oak tree is supposed to do given its nature—that is to say, it achieves the ends its nature directs it toward (e.g., sinking deep roots into the ground, taking in nutrition, and growing). Notice once again nature determines what is a good or bad instance of a thing. The oak tree's nature also helps us determine what is good and bad for the tree. If we were to spray the tree with poison, would the oak tree achieve its natural ends of sinking roots deep into the ground, taking in nutrition, and growing? Of course not! Therefore, we can say that poison is bad for the tree given its nature. And notice that what is bad for the tree is independent of what you or I think; it is an objective fact. By contrast, if we water the tree, fertilize it, and allow it the light it needs, it will achieve the ends its nature directs it toward. As such, we can conclude that water, fertilizer, and light are good for the tree. And notice once again our judgment about what is good is independent of what you or I think. What is good for the tree, given its nature, is an objective fact. So, for living things we appeal to nature not only to determine whether it is a good instance of the kind of thing it is but also what is good and bad for the thing given the ends its nature directs it toward. **A good or bad human being?** The same reasoning applies to human beings. Human beings have a nature or essence with various capacities and ends the fulfillment of which is good and the frustration of which is bad, as a matter of objective fact. For example, nature directs us to preserve our own existence. This is something we share with all living things. Nature also directs us to preserving our species through sexual intercourse and rearing children—something we share with animals specifically. Finally, nature directs us to certain ends or goals that are peculiar to us as rational animals—namely, to know the truth about God, to live in society, to shun ignorance, and to avoid harming those with whom one has to live. Therefore, we can know what is good and bad for human beings objectively speaking. Any behavior that facilitates the achievement of these natural ends is considered good—that is to say, it will fulfill human nature. Any behavior that frustrates the achievement of these natural ends is considered bad—that is to say, it won't bring about human flourishing. Human nature therefore serves as a standard for what is good and bad behavior for human beings and it is independent of what you or I think. On this analysis, what is good and bad behavior is an objective fact. The formulation of general moral principles on the basis of human nature's capacities and ends and the systematic working out of their implications is what the Catholic Church has called in her Tradition the natural law. Charles Rice, an American legal scholar, defines the natural law as "a set of manufacturer's directions written into our nature so that we can discover through reason how we ought to act" (50 Questions on the Natural Law, ch. 1). **Conclusion:** It is this natural law that the Catholic Church has always appealed to in defense of its prohibition of certain behaviors. Whether it's contraception, homosexual acts, or abortion, the Church sees in these behaviors a frustration of certain ends our nature directs us toward, and as such cannot contribute to human flourishing—that is to say, they cannot contribute to authentic human happiness. In this sense they are bad. Since the Church is in the business of leading us to authentic human happiness, it says no to such behaviors. Rather than being an evil tyrant trying to limit everyone's freedom, the Church is simply trying to be a voice for what it means to be human and how to flourish as one. What's so bad about that?

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 15	..... Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Divine Liturgy.
January 16	..... Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations @ 6:00 p.m.
January 18-25	..... Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
January 22	..... 44 th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion.
January 30	..... Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs – Simple Holy Day – (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS); 6:00 p.m.
February 2	..... Feast of the Encounter w/ Sanctification of Candles – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.
February 6	..... MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
February 7	..... NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
February 26	..... (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
February 27	..... PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week

The Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy Supreme & Prime Apostle Peter — January 16

The Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and All-Praised Apostle

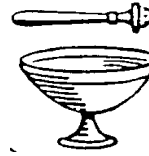


Peter: In about the year 42, on the orders of Herod Agrippa, the Apostle Peter was thrown into prison for preaching about Christ the Savior. In prison he was held secure by two iron chains. During the night before his trial, an angel of the Lord removed these chains from the Apostle Peter and led him out from the prison (Acts 12:1-11). Christians who learned of the miracle took the chains and kept them as precious keepsakes. For three centuries the chains

were kept in Jerusalem, and those who were afflicted with illness and approached them with faith received healing. Patriarch Juvenal (July 2) presented the chains to Eudokia, wife of the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and she in turn transferred them from Jerusalem to Constantinople in either the year 437 or 439. Eudokia sent one chain to Rome to her daughter Eudoxia (the wife of Valentinian), who built a church on the Esquiline hill dedicated to the Apostle Peter and placed the chain in it. There were other chains in Rome, with which the Apostle Peter was shackled before his martyrdom under the emperor Nero. These were also placed in the church. On January 16, the chains of Saint Peter are brought out for public veneration.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR CONTINUES HOUSE BLESSINGS THIS WEEK — It is so important to have your house blessed EVERY year. To have God's blessing renewed annually keeps it away from evil influence, cleanses it from the sin committed in it, and imparts God's protection upon it. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office and set up an appointment. Please read the article "In preparation for a house blessing" published in last week's S.O.T. available in the vestibule.



INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE— If MR Members would like a record of their 2016 individual financial report, please contact the office between 9:30 am to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If no answer, please leave a request on the voice-mail. Since there are few NS Members, Individual Financial reports are available in the narthex. Please discontinue using your 2016 envelopes. Your number may have changed!



EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY — This Wednesday commences the *Annual Eight Days of Prayer* for the intention of Christian Unity. Each year from January 18-



25, Christians unite to pray in the same sentiments that Jesus prayed to the Father: "That all may be one ... so that the world may believe." (John 17:21). **This year's theme is: "Reconciliation-The Love of Christ Compels Us."** (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-20). As Catholics who have the fullness of the faith that Jesus established, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Pray each day: "O Almighty and Merciful God, You

willed that the different nations should become one people through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. In this may Your name be glorified Father, Son (+), and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen."

ARCHIEPARCHIAL NEWSPAPER RAISES RATE — For those of you who are subscribing to THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD, be reminded that they have raised their annual rate to \$14.00. This is the first raise in several years. It is a great source of news throughout our Archeparchy, and is well worth the investment. Please submit the entire cost in your contribution envelope. If you are a first time subscriber please write **FIRST TIME** on the envelope so that the office can forward your name and have it placed on our parochial list. **Also**, if you wish to contribute a one-year subscription to a parishioner who is in a nursing home facility and is unable to afford The B.C.W., please submit the payment of \$14.00, You will be notified the one you are sponsoring. Many thanks to those who contributed extra for this purpose.



END OF THE YEAR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS ARE NOW READY AND POSSIBLE TO BE SENT VIA E-MAIL! PLEASE REQUEST IT NOW BY PHONING THE CHURCH OFFICE OR BY SUBMITTING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO FFAF334@VERIZON.NET! WE CAN EVEN SEND IT TO YOU THROUGH THE MAIL!