

Parish Offerings – Sunday After Christmas – Dec. 31, 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 (\$1,662) YP (\$12)	\$1,674.00
Holy Days (\$170) Christmas (\$1,005) YP (\$10)	1,185.00
Votive Candles	108.50

\$2,967.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$263.00
Holy Days (\$30) Christmas (\$340)	370.00
Special Donation (In mem of Anthony & Agnes Knoll by Son: William)	100.00
Votive Candles	46.50

\$779.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (35)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (60); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (36)

Feast of Our Lord's Circumcision — Mon, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (21); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (19)



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



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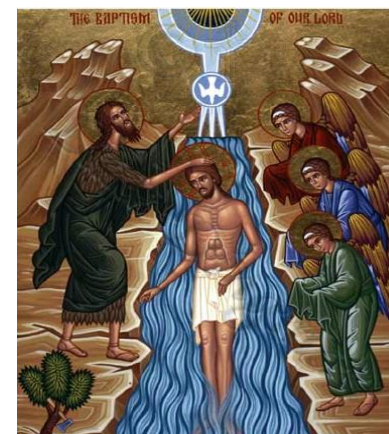
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT

The Sunday after Theophany — January 7, 2018



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

As the prophet foretold, a Great Light, Christ, has shown upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali. A people living in darkness have seen a Great Light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is a protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today (Ikos of Theophany Matins).

Jan 7, 2018

Christian Greeting (until Jan 14) Volume VIII, Number 1

Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!
Christos Krescajetsja! — Vo Jordan'ii



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
Sunday after the Enlightenment			
We Will Renew Our Baptismal Promises — Postfestive of Theophany			
Sun, Jan 7	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Dolores + Tony Nee	Alice G. Slagle
Mon, Jan 8	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna Hrebenak	Marge Cifrutak & Helen Best
Tue, Jan 9	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula (birthday)	Mary Ann & Donald Kostrubanic
Wed., Jan 10	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Judy A. Hopey	Family
Thrs., Jan 11	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Charles "Pete" Latta	Paula, George & James Latta

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE or EQUIVIALNT PENANCE (your choice) for the intention of World Peace



Fri., Jan 12	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John J. Singel	Theresa Kundrat
Sat., Jan 13	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Andrew Latta	Larry Haser



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Zacchaeus — 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John R. Debranski (birthday 1/12) Dgtr: Nancy



Sunday of Zacchaeus

The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday — Final Day of Holy Theophany

SUN., Jan 14	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (birthday 1/12)	Valeriano & Kallop Families
	3:00 p.m.	Ordination to Priesthood of Deacon Vitalii Stashkevych, St. John Cathedral, Munhall, PA @ 3:00 p.m.	

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 7 – ISABELLA RUSH; Jan 9 – Andrew Drukalsky; WILLIAM GOGAL; Jan 10 – Mary Ann Smoley; Jan 11 – Dennis Uram; Jan 12 – Michael Harsh, Michael Tomchak; Jan 13 – MICHAEL BARBUSH, Mariella Kassabov, Noreen Muha.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Belinas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, MARY SAHAYDA, Alice Sejka, Millie Sotak, 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.

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

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

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What is the Church's stance on giving money to the Shriners Hospitals for Children? **A.** **Answer by Catholic Answers:** Shriners Hospitals are a philanthropic endeavor of the Masons There is no doubt that these hospitals work to treat the serious medical needs of children. And, if a Catholic child could benefit from the care offered at a Shriners hospital, the Church certainly wouldn't prohibit this. In addition, a Catholic could arguably work at such a hospital, since the medical care it provides does not conflict with Church teaching. However, if the Catholic's job entailed advancing the general mission of the Shriners, that would be impermissible. **Catholics remain prohibited from joining the Masons, because Freemasonry is at odds with Catholicism** in key ways and because one of Masonry's prime adjectives, particularly as it has existed in certain European countries, has been to destroy the Catholic Church. **Make your donations to the care of children at good Catholic hospitals.** In doing so, you'll ensure that the care the children receive is sound both medically and spiritually.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 7 — January 13, 2018

(MR): **In memory of Terrek & Mikovitz Families**

offered by Mildred Terrek

(NS): **In memory of Diane Voigt (6th ann of passing 7/7)**

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Sister: Janet Sendro & Family (NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

A MUST REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR UPCOMING PIROHI PROJECT — At last week's Pirohi Workers Appreciation Luncheon, it was agreed that all were interested for the upcoming Lenten Project. In the meantime, some have report that they weren't sure. In order to iron-out this situation, we must have a reorganizational meeting on **Sunday, January 21, 2018 following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**. Please attend this important meeting so as to determine whether the Project will be a go!

ECF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM BEGINS TODAY — The second semester for the *ECF Program* commences today, **January 7, 2018** following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Parents, God-parents and Guardians. If your children are not enrolled in this program, please have them attend these religious education classes. Phone Steve Puluka (412) 344-6523. For those who are seeking a Holy Ghost Church Scholarship Subsidy for Parochial Education, this is an obligatory requirement. The Byzan-TEEN Youth Group is also holding a **Bake Sale today** as well. Please support them as they earn funds necessary for the 2018 Summer Youth Rally in Latrobe, PA.



COFFEE SOCIAL RESUMES TODAY — Just a reminder that our Coffee Social resumes this first full weekend of the month following the Divine Liturgies.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED FORTHCOMING — We no sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it will be time to dismantle it for another year. We will gather on **Monday, January 15, 2018 @ 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 FORTHCOMING — We truly had a beautiful Christmas display for the past Great Holy Days. It's time to take them down following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, January 14, 2018**. Please consider your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. All it takes is app. an hour of precious time!

The House is to receive God's Presence

In Preparation for another year of House Blessings:

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year! As the priest enters the house, he greets the family by saying: **Peace be to this house!** The response is: **And to all who dwell therein.** In a main room or at the icon corner place a candle, cross and/or icon on a clean linen cloth. • Have a small container of holy water that was blessed on the feast of Theophany. • Have all radios, stereos, televisions, etc., turned off for the blessing. • Please have all pets confined or restrained. • If you have any religious articles you wish to be blessed, please place them on the table by the holy water. • When the priest arrives have everyone present assemble in the prepared place. • Sing the festal Troparion and as much of the ritual as possible. In some places the cantor accompanies the priest, in others the priest goes alone. Therefore, participation is important. • By custom, in some places, the youngest member of the family, carrying a candle, leads the priest through the house for the blessing. The faithful remain quiet until the priest returns.

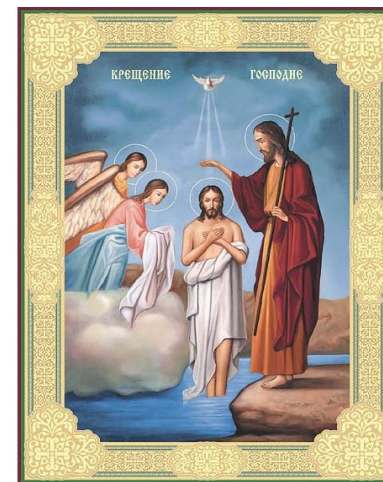


CONTINUING THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST Sunday after the Enlightenment

GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17



We are currently in the postfestive period of Holy Theophany, and it is designated to be a continuation of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This Sunday is referred to as the "Sunday after the Enlightenment." This designation comes from the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the "Enlightenment." It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus' own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared for their initiation and admission into the Church received baptism, chrismation and eucharist on that day. Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one's own baptism, and how its relevance and personal effect have called us to be God's new chosen people. What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with Jesus' Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us? During this special year of Mercy, take this Sunday's celebration to heart and recommit yourself to Christ since He promises eternal life and great mercy.



The (Church) Fathers Know Best

The Early Church Fathers believed that being baptized was being born again. They baptized both adults and infants and they used three methods; immersion, pouring and sprinkling. **Tertullian:** "No one can attain salvation without baptism, especially in view of the declaration of the Lord, who says, "Unless a man shall be born of water, he shall not have life" (On Baptism 12:1 [A.D. 203]). **Origen:** "The Church received from the apostles the tradition of giving baptism even to infants. The apostles, to whom were committed the secrets of divine sacraments, knew there is in everyone innate strains of [original] sin, which must be washed away through water and the Spirit" (Commentaries on Romans 5:9 [A.D. 248])

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7	ECF Program resumes for the second semester.
January 14	NS Dismantling of Christmas Decorations following the Divine Liturgy. Priesthood Ordination of Deacon Vitalii Stashkevych, St. John Cathedral @ 3:00 p.m.
January 15	MR Dismantling of Christmas Decorations at 6:00 p.m.
January 18-25	Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
January 21	Reorganizational Pirohi Project Meeting following the Divine Liturgy.
January 22	45 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 pm.
February 2	Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 am.; (NS) 5:50 pm. (NS) Reading of the Hramoty following the Holy Day Divine Liturgy.
February 3	First Universal All Souls Saturday with the Reading of the Hramoty – (MR) 9:00 am.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – JANUARY 10

Our Father among the Saints, Gregory of Nyssa



Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, was a younger brother of St Basil the Great (January 1). His birth and upbringing came at a time when the Arian disputes were at their height. Having received an excellent education, he was at one time a teacher of rhetoric. In the year 372, he was consecrated by St Basil the Great as bishop of the city of Nyssa in Cappadocia. St Gregory was an ardent advocate for the True Faith, and he fought against the Arian heresy with his brother St Basil. Gregory was persecuted by the Arians, by whom he was falsely accused of improper use of church property, and thereby deprived of his See and sent to Ancyra. In the year 381 St Gregory was one of the chief figures of the Second Ecumenical Council, convened at Constantinople against the heresy of Macedonius, who incorrectly taught about the Holy Spirit. At this Council, on the initiative of St Gregory, the Nicene Symbol of Faith (the Creed) was

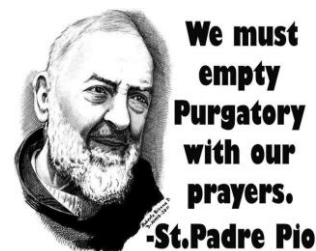
completed. In the year 383, St Gregory of Nyssa participated in a Council at Constantinople, where he preached a sermon on the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit. In 386, he was again at Constantinople, and he was asked to speak the funeral oration in memory of the empress Placidia. St Gregory of Nyssa was a fiery defender of True Faith dogmas and a zealous teacher of his flock, a kind and compassionate father to his spiritual children, and their intercessor before the courts. He was distinguished by his magnanimity, patience and love of peace. Having reached old age, St Gregory of Nyssa died soon after the Council of Constantinople. Together with his great contemporaries, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian, St Gregory of Nyssa had a significant influence on the Church life of his time. His sister, St Macrina, wrote to him: "You are renowned both in the cities, and gatherings of people, and throughout entire districts. Churches ask you for help." St Gregory is known in history as one of the most profound Christian thinkers of the fourth century.

General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK — Just a reminder that The Feast of Holy Theophany – The Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, celebrated this past week on January 6 was 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) in 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). Neglect of participation renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntarily neglect. This is an important precept of the Church.



REMEMBERING ALL SOULS — On the first Saturday of February (Feb 3) we will, once again, be offering the first of five Divine Liturgies for All Souls. Please remember your loved ones by filling out the envelope in your contribution box with only their first names. They will



be mentioned at the Hramoty near the end of the Divine Liturgy with a Panachida for all five Saturday's (check the Church Calendar) If you have submitted names within the past four years, you need only to place new ones; the others will continue to be remembered. If you have not requested a remembrance for more than four years, please write all first names that you would like mentioned in the Hramoty. Following the Friday, Feb. 2nd Holy Day Divine Liturgy (NS) @ 6:00 p.m. & (MR) following the Divine

Liturgy on Saturday Feb 3 @ 9:00 a.m.

CONVERT INFORMATIONAL CLASSES FORTHCOMING — We welcome all of you who have been attending Holy Ghost Church with your spouses and friends on a regular basis. Perhaps you would like to become a Catholic of the Byzantine Rite, but didn't know how to go about it. Our pastor is considering offering classes to introduce you to know what our Faith and Rite are about. You do not have to commit yourself officially in becoming Catholic. I'm sure that you must have many questions. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Firko. Thus far only one individual has responded.

FR. LUCAS SENDS GRATITUDE — Prior to Christmas, the S.O.T. included the names and addresses of our Priests that are ill and infirmed. Many of you responded. Fr. Edward Lucas especially asked that a special thank you be extended to all of you who remembered him with a card and the support of prayers. It truly made his Christmas! He says, *"Even though they do not know me, they reached out and remembered me and prayed for me. It truly touched my heart" Thank you so much and God Bless you!* Fr. Lucas's health continues to decline. He was admitted to Forbes Hospital. If you would like to send him a get-well card, his address is: Forbes Hospital, 2570 Haymaker Road, Monroeville, PA 15146. Please let him know that you are from Holy Ghost Church.

END OF THE 2017 YEAR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS CAN NOW BE SENT VIA E-MAIL! PLEASE REQUEST IT NOW BY CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE : secretary225@verizon.net AND SUBMITTING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!