

Parish Offerings – Sunday After Theophany – Jan. 7, 2018

“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 (\$2,470.03) YP (\$15.60)	\$2,485.63
Holy Days (\$198) Christmas (\$60) Theophany (\$451) YP (\$3)	709.00
Initial (\$255) YP (\$3) Coffee Social (\$27)	285.00
Special Donation (In mem of + Agnes Rosko by Monica Haskins)	50.00
Votive Candles	94.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,623.63

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$305.75
Holy Days (\$100) Christmas (\$110)	210.00
Utilities (\$5) Improvements (\$30) Initial (\$55) B.C.W. (\$14)	104.00
Votive Candles	49.26
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	\$669.01

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (53)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (70); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)

Feast of Holy Theophany Jan 6 — Fri, (NS) 6:00 p.m. (33); Sat, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (22)



(See Genesis 3) 12-30-2013
REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?



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



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

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 SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday — January 14, 2018
The Final Day of the Theophany Feast



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).

Jan 14, 2018

Christian Greeting (until Jan 14) Volume VIII, Number 2



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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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.	



Federal Holiday — Martin Luther King, Jr. — Banks & Post Office Closed

Mon, Jan 15	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Maletz	Son: Bob & Martha
Tue, Jan 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Jennie Timulak	Melissa & Jim Eberz
Wed, Jan 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joyce D. Ray	Ed Juhascik
Thrs, Jan 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George W. Hornak	Sister: Helena Barth & Family



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



Fri, Jan 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Eleanor Kapko	Elizabeth Prostudy
Sat, Jan 20	9:00 a.m. (NS)	Health	Friend: Yvonne M. Shantar of Anna Marie Demianczyk

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Publican & Pharisee — 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Claudia C. Verner	Husband: George
	(1 st ann of passing 1/17)	

Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN, Jan 21	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna Wittas Skaylo	Joyce & James Walsh Family
	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 14 – James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole, Anna Mae Sejka; Jan 15 – William Boros; Jan 16 – Edward Conner; Jan 19 – Barbara Lutz.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuinas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, Theresa Kundrat, 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. Why does the Lord's Prayer ask God not to lead us into temptation? Surely God wouldn't lead us into temptation, by his very nature; He doesn't want us to be tempted. So why do we have to ask? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** The Greek used here means both trials that test us and temptation in the sense of allurement.... The Epistle of James explicitly rejects that God lures us into sin (James 1:13). Therefore, a trial/testing is the most likely emphasis in this passage. In this prayer, we are essentially praying the same prayer as Jesus when he said, "If possible let this cup pass from me" (Matt. 26:39). For this reason, some translations of the Lord's Prayer use "do not subject us not to the final test" or "do not bring us to the time of trial." However, in English, traditionally we have used the "lead us not into temptation" translation. In this sense, it is meant that being subjected to a testing/trial of our faith could tempt us to fall away from the Faith. It is an acknowledgment of our weakness and our need for courage and strength from God.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 14 — January 20, 2018

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

offered by Dgtr: Eileen Finnegan & Family

(NS): **In memory of Madelyn Harding**

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Dgtr: Tamara

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

REORGANIZATIONAL PIROHI PROJECT MEETING NEXT SUNDAY — It was agreed that all were interested for the upcoming Lenten Project. However, some have reported 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!

SUMMARY OF OUR LENTEN PIROHI PROJECT — Listed is a summary of our Pirohi Account following the pre-Christmas Sales. Total Proceeds in *Parish Savings & Share Account* prior to Sales (\$50,628.09); Cost for diverting school roof water to Olivia Street (-\$8,500). Total prior to sales (\$42,128.09). Total Income from sales (\$12,258.00) Expenses (-\$2,379.78) Total Profit (\$9,878.22) Minus 5% Cathedraticum (-\$483.72); Grandview Buffet, Rivers Casino (-\$203.86). Total: (\$9,190.64). Current in PS&S account: (\$51,318.73). This fund continues to make at least 2% interest. We are continuing to

search out the possibility of updating the two Church Basement Restrooms. Thank you again to all who made this Project possible.

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 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.

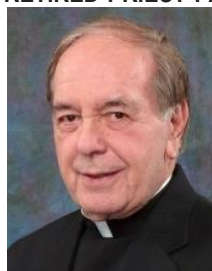


Northside Announcements



CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED TODAY — 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!

RETIRED PRIEST PASSES INTO ETERNITY — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Fr. Edward Lucas, 82**, at his home in White Oak, PA, following his hospitalization at the Forbes Hospital, Monroeville on Sunday, January 7, 2018. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at his last assignment at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Weirton, WV and St. John Church, Avella, PA. The principle celebrant was Archbishop Skurla. Interment followed at St. Paul Cemetery, Weirton, WV. *He was very grateful to all our parishioners who remembered him with cards and prayers during the Christmas-Theophany Season.* In blessed repose, grant



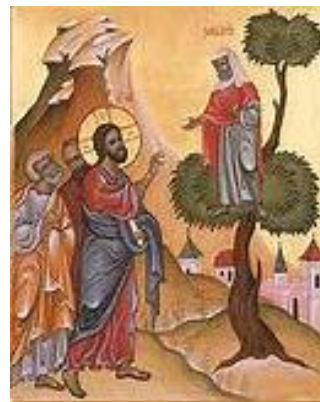
O Lord, eternal rest to your servant the priest, Fr. Lucas, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!

Today's Gospel Meditation

The 1st of Five Sundays Prior to The Great Fast

The **DESIRE** to Follow Jesus (Luke 19: 1-10)

Today commences the first of five Sundays in preparation to the Lenten



Season which is still one month away. The theme of "Repentance" is set before us and continues for two forthcoming Sundays. Today lesson is the first Pregreatfast **Sunday of Zacchaeus.** His name means PURE or JUSTIFIED. HE was the wealthy man of Jerusalem who gathered revenue for the Roman government, but who became a disciple of Christ (Luke 19:1-10). A "chief publican," Zacchaeus might have been of a higher grade than Matthew. Although not one of Christ's expected converts, Zacchaeus had heard much about Christ and **DESIRED** to see Him for himself. When ultimately Christ came his way there were two obstacles in his

way—the crowd, and his own short stature. But he quickly overcame both hindrances. Our Lord called Zacchaeus down and invited Himself to his house. Zacchaeus was a sinner and Christ saved him. Quickly Zacchaeus revealed the depth of his **DESIRE** and surrendered to his newly found Master. There came an immediate and generous restitution. His **DESIRE** for Jesus teaches us that through Repentance we take our first serious step to surrender ourselves to Him and follow it by good deeds.

The Effects of Holy and Sanctified Water

The Catechism teaches that the sacramentals, consequently holy water, operate principally by means of the Church's intercession (CCC 1667). The Church is the bride of the Divine Savior, and hence her prayers are always pleasing to God. When the Church prays, the divine bridegroom prays with her, and for this reason her prayer is powerful



with God. Thus it may happen that a lukewarm Christian may derive great benefit from the use of holy water. The reason for this is that God looks not on the unworthiness of mankind but rather on the prayer of the Church, so pleasing to Him. Especially, though, will the loyal children of the Church, who seek to coordinate their ideas to those of the divine Savior and of the Church, participate in the blissful effects of holy water. **1. Use holy water to drive away the devil; 2. Use holy water to overcome temptations; 3. You can use holy water to drive away sickness – and future illness too; 4. Holy water cleanses soul from venial sins and temporal punishments; 5. Take advantage of those sanctifying effects**

found with holy water; and 6. Use holy water for the comfort and release of the holy souls in Purgatory.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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	1 st Universal All Souls Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. with reading of Hramoty.
February 3-4	Monthly Coffee Social following the weekend Divine Liturgy.
February 4	1 st quarterly meeting of GCU Lodge 390 @ 2:00 p.m. Byzan-TEEN Youth Bake Sale following Sunday's Divine Liturgy.
February 5	MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
February 6	NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
February 11	(MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.
February 12	PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. (MR) 1 st & 3 rd Greatfast Hours @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week — January 10 Our Venerable Father Macarius of Egypt

Saint Macarius the Great of Egypt was born in the early fourth century in the village of Ptinapor in Egypt. At the wish of his parents he entered into marriage, but was soon widowed. After he buried his wife, Macarius told himself, "Take heed, Macarius, and have care for your soul. It is fitting that you forsake worldly life." The Lord impelled him to ascetic deeds of prayer and penitence. He began to visit the church of God more frequently and to be more deeply absorbed in Holy Scripture, but he did not leave his aged parents, thus fulfilling the commandment to honor one's parents. The Enemy of our salvation began a tenacious struggle with the ascetic, trying to terrify him, shaking his cell and suggesting sinful thoughts. Saint Macarius repelled the attacks of the devil, defending himself with prayer and the Sign of the Cross. Saint Macarius survived many demonic attacks against him. When the saint reached the age of forty, he was ordained to the priesthood and made the head of the monks living in the desert of Skete. Saint Macarius attained such boldness before God that, through his prayers, the Lord raised the dead. Despite attaining such heights of holiness, he continued to preserve his unusual humility. He gave counsel such as "If you wish to be saved, be as one dead. Do not become angry when insulted, nor puffed up when praised." And further: "If slander is like praise for you, poverty like riches, insufficiency like abundance, then you shall not perish." The miracles and visions of Blessed Macarius are recorded in a book by the presbyter Rufinus, and his Life was compiled by Saint Serapion, bishop of Tmuntis (Lower Egypt).

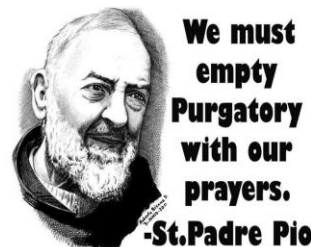


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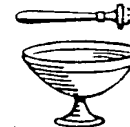
General Announcements

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.**

PASTOR CONTINUES HOUSE BLESSINGS — 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. Our pastor will finish house blessing prior to The Great Fast.



INDIVIDUAL FINANCE REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE— If MR Members would like a record of their 2017 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 2017 envelopes. Your number may have changed!



EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY — This Thursday 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: "Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power." (Exodus 15:6).** 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."**



CONVERT INFORMATIONAL CLASSES STARTING SOON — Fr. Firko would like to begin instructions for those wishing to officially enter the Byzantine Catholic Church. Date and time to be announce shortly. Please phone the Church Office (412) 771-3324 or email: ffaf334@verizon.net A.S.A.P.