

**Parish Offerings – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — September 9, 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 (\$1,412) YP (\$6)	\$1,418.00
Holy Days (\$237) YP (\$6)	243.00
Votive Candles (\$91.50) Coffee Social (\$15)	106.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,767.50

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering	\$770.00
Holy Days	90.00
Utilities (\$5) Improvements (\$5)	10.00
Votive Candles	31.50
	<hr/>
	\$902.50

**Church Attendance Last Week**

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (54)

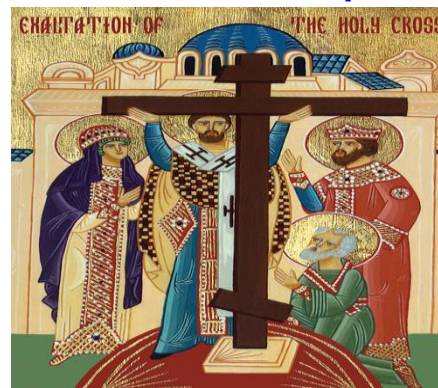
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)

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

**THE 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross**

**September 16, 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](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**  
 Funeral Home – 238 Helen St.,  
 McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
 Phone: (412) 331-9713  
 Fax: (412) 331-6688  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
 Supervisor, CFSP  
*Our Familj Still Servina Yours Since 1953*



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**This space available  
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 Call the office  
 (412) 771-3324**

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 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 Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership requirements.  
Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (724) 779-0915.  
Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.  
Social Hall Rental for (MR) Parishioners: Contact Rectory Office: (412) 771-3324.  
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!

# 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).

September 16, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 37



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
<b>Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross</b>			
<b>SUN., Sept 16</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. (MR)</b>	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	<b>11:00 a.m. (NS)</b>	+ Leonard R. Kallop, Sr.	Valeriano-Kallop Families
Mon Sept 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare of Velma Seman	Anna Marie Demianczyk
Tue, Sept 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Formoso (birthday 9/15)	Husband: Vincent
Wed, Sept 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Marie Jumba (4 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/16)	Mildred Terrek
Thrs, Sept 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Gabriel Babin (15 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/19)	Dgtr: Janet Sendro

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) in remembrance of Our Lord's Crucifixion and Death upon the Precious Cross**



**Final Day of the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross**  
**The Holy Cross is solemnly removed from the tetrapod**



Fri, Sept 21	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Dorothy Billy (birthday 9/19)	Family
<b>Autumnal Equinox begins at 9:54 pm</b>			
Sat, Sept. 22	9:00 a.m. (NS)	Health of Michael Smith	Mary Sahayda



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**Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**4:00 p.m. (MR)** + John Kundrat  
(28<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/23)

Wife: Theresa Kundrat

## 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

<b>SUN., Sept 23</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. (MR)</b>	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	<b>11:00 a.m. (NS)</b>	+ Marie Wittmer	Mary Ann Smoley

## 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*

**Sept 16** – Mark Cifrulak, Robert Cifrulak, MARY FRANCES SPONTAK; **Sept 17** – Christine Michalisk, Ethan Singel; **Sept 20** – Dolores Babin, LEONARD KALLOP, JR, Laura Saber; **Sept 22** – Elizabeth Harbist, Margaret Nazak.

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iлона Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, John Marks, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Betty Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, Julia Wovchko, SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

**MAPLEWOOD PC HOME** (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.  
**HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER** (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.  
**BRIGHTON REHAB & WELLNESS CENTER** (246 Friendship Circle, Beaver, PA 15009): Mary Susan Dragosh.

**MASONIC VILLAGE** (1000 Masonic Dr., Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Pregnanz.  
**MARIAN MANOR** (2695 Winchester Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): Irene Bednar.

**CHIPPEVA 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.  
**LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** (1028 Benton Ave., PGH 15212): MARY SAHAYDA  
**VETERANS HOSPITAL** (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

**CARING HEIGHTS** (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Margaret Beliuinas.  
**HEALTHSOUTH OF SEWICKLEY** (303 Camp Meeting Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen Hopey.

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

**Q.** Why do we use our right hand instead of our left hand to make the sign of the cross? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The right hand, probably in part due to the fact that most people are right-handed, is traditionally the hand of blessing and greeting in many cultural settings, a convention found in Scripture and Tradition. For example, Jesus places the sheep on his right hand but the goats on his left; he himself is "seated at the right hand of the Father"; at God's "right hand are blessings forevermore"; and so on. In sacred images, Jesus is depicted raising his right hand in blessing. Even today, we use our right hand for handshakes or salutes; we are familiar with the phrase "the right hand of fellowship" and so forth. By contrast, the left hand has in many cultures a very different set of traditional associations (for example, it is often designated for personal hygiene; the word sinister is derived from the Latin for left-handed; etc.). For all these reasons, it is natural that the sign of the cross has traditionally been made with the right hand.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**September 16, 2018 — September 22, 2018**

(MR): **In memory of Rose A. Debranski** (14<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/14)

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS): **In memory of Leonard R. Kallop, Sr.** (7<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/15)

(MR) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2019

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2019

# McKees Rocks Announcements

**HELPING HANDS EVENT THIS WEEK** — Just a reminder that our grounds cleaning takes place this **Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.** We could sure use some helping hands to prepare our church grounds for the Fall and Winter seasons.

**KENNYWOOD PIROHI FEST FORTHCOMING** — **Sunday, September 23, 2018** is the



Pirohi Festival at Kennywood. Our church will be participating in this festival, and selling our renowned pirohi! As a member of Holy Ghost Church, all parishioners can purchase tickets at 50% off. If you are interested in going, tickets can be purchased online: [www.showclix.com/event/the-pittsburgh-pierogi-festival812210](http://www.showclix.com/event/the-pittsburgh-pierogi-festival812210). Upon checking out, enter this code in the coupon code field to get the 50% off: PIEROGICHURCH2018. Full price tickets are: Adult

(Ages 13+): \$24.00, Children (Ages 3-12): \$12.00; using this coupon code will reduce your ticket cost to \$12.00 & \$6.00; Children 2 and under are free! Questions: Contact Tam Revtai (412) 480-3707.

## Holy Ghost, Northside

**GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED IN TWO WEEKS — SAVE THE DATE** — The weeds and bushes surrounding our Holy Ghost Church really need attention. We can't do it



without your cooperation! We surely need your help on **Saturday, September 29, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.** To keep our grounds tidied encourages our neighbors to have civic pride and demonstrates that we care for God's Church and the important gift it is to the community. We need you!!! If you have any relatives needing extra credit for a scouting project or for school, our pastor will be happy to

sign a form for them

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**PRAYER DURING NATURAL DISASTERS** — *Compassionate Lord (and Father), we pray for those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters, especially by Hurricane*



*Florence. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss. Bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayers for strength. Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation. May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead. We ask your blessing on all those who*

*have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope. Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance. May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone. Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, with Whom You are blessed together with Your All-Holy, Gracious and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.* (Source: Catholic Relief Services)

# Who Can Receive Communion?

*(The following abridged article had appeared on the Catholic Answers Webpage several months ago but is still relevant today)*

The Holy Eucharist is the most important of the seven sacraments because, in this and in no other sacrament, we receive the very body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Innumerable, precious graces come to us through the reception of Holy Communion. Communion is an intimate encounter with Christ, in which we sacramentally receive Christ into our bodies, that we may be more completely assimilated into His. The Eucharist also strengthens the individual because in it Jesus himself, the Word made flesh, forgives our venial sins and gives us the strength to resist mortal sin. It is also the very channel of eternal life (John 6:53-58).



Because of the gravity of Jesus' teaching on receiving the Eucharist, the Church encourages Catholics to receive frequent Communion, even daily Communion if possible, and mandates reception of the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season. Before going to Communion, however, there are several things one needs to know.

**First**, you must be in a state of grace (1 Cor. 11:27–28). This is an absolute requirement which can never be dispensed. To receive the Eucharist without sanctifying grace in your soul profanes the Eucharist in the most grievous manner. A mortal sin is *any* sin whose matter is grave and which has been committed willfully and with knowledge of its seriousness. Grave matter includes, but is not limited to, murder, receiving or participating in an abortion, homosexual acts, having sexual intercourse outside of marriage or in an invalid marriage, and deliberately engaging in impure thoughts (Matt. 5:28–29). Or out of habit and out of fear of what those around them will think if they do not receive Communion, some Catholics, in a state of mortal sin, choose to go forward and offend God rather than stay in the pew while others receive the Eucharist.

**Second**, you must have been to confession since your last mortal sin. The *Code of Canon Law* indicates that the same requirement applies today. "A person who is conscious of a grave sin (which also includes deliberately missing the Sunday Divine Liturgy or a Holy Day of Obligation) is not to receive the body of the Lord without prior sacramental confession unless a grave reason is present and there is no opportunity of confessing; in this case the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible.

**Third**, you must believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation. Transubstantiation means more than the Real Presence. According to transubstantiation, the bread and wine are actually transformed into the actual body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ, with only the appearances of bread and wine remaining.

**Fourth**, you must observe the Eucharistic fast. Canon law states, "One who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion". Elderly people, those who are ill, and their caretakers are excused from the Eucharistic fast.

**Fifth and finally**, one must not be under an ecclesiastical censure. Canon law mandates that those who are excommunicated or interdicted after the imposition or declaration of the penalty and others who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion. Provided they are in a state of grace and have met the above requirements, Catholics should receive the Eucharist frequently.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 16 ..... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year  
September 16-18 ..... Archieparchial Assembly 2018.  
September 22 ..... MR Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.  
September 23 ..... Holy Ghost Pirohi Project to participate in Kennywood Park Pierogi Feast.  
September 29 ..... NS Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.  
October 1 ..... Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
Oct 7-11 ..... Annual Archieparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochian Retreat Center, Ligonier.

## Saint of the Week

### THE HOLY BISHOP-MARTYR HYPATIUS AND THE PRIEST ANDREW — September 21

Bishop-Martyr Hypatius, Bishop of Ephesus, and the Priest Andrew suffered in



the eighth century under the iconoclast emperor Leo the Isaurian (717-741). As young men, they studied together in one of the monasteries. Saint Hypatius accepted monasticism, and Saint Andrew became a clergyman and zealously instructed people in the fullness of the Christian Faith. When the emperor Leo the Isaurian began to persecute those who venerated holy icons, and the holy icons were thrown out of the churches, to be trampled underfoot and burned, Saints Hypatius and Andrew rose up in defense of icon veneration, urging

their flock to maintain faithfulness to true worship. The emperor, wanting to persuade the saints, summoned them to him and arranged a debate about the veneration of icons, at which Saints Hypatius and Andrew were consistently able to defend the veneration of icons. They threw the martyrs into prison and for a long time they held them there, hoping that this would force the saints to renounce their convictions, but the saints remained steadfast. Then the emperor gave orders to torture the martyrs. They beat them, flayed the skin and hair from their heads, smeared their beards with tar and set it afire, and they burned holy icons upon the heads of the martyrs. The saints bore all their tortures patiently and remained alive. The emperor gave orders to drag the saints through the city to be mocked by the people, and only after this to kill them. They threw the bodies of Saints Hypatius and Andrew to be eaten by dogs, but believers reverently gave them burial.

## General Announcements

### A short Explanation of the Three-Bar Cross

The three-bar Cross is used by those worshipping in Byzantine-Slavic Churches, namely Byzantine Catholics. As Ruthenian (Rusyn) Byzantine Catholics, we count the horizontal bars and not the vertical beam. There are 2 perspectives of its meaning: (1) the top bar contains the name that Pilate chose to be placed over Jesus' head: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"; the bottom bar, the foot-stool," is seen slanted indicating the direction of the Repentant Good Thief who went upwards to Paradise; and the downward direction that the Unrepentant Thief who went to hell. (2) Another common explanation is seen from the perspective of two original apostles who gave their lives for Jesus and were also crucified. The top bar represents the cross of St. Peter, who requested to be crucified upside down, not deeming himself worthy to die in the same manner as His Lord; and the bottom bar is in the form of an "X" referred to as the St. Andrew's Cross, who was put to death in this manner. We should wear and hang the Three Bar Cross as the trophy of our salvation and as a witness to others that God loves them and seeks their salvation.



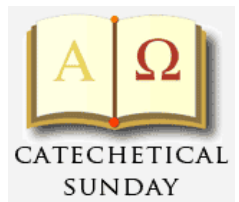
**VENERATING THE PRECIOUS CROSS PROPERLY** — A special veneration of the Precious Cross takes place twice a year as it rests on the tetrapod table of the Church. Since the Most Holy Trinity is



responsible for our salvation we bow profoundly with our right hand to the floor in honor of God the Father, Who so loved the world that He sent us His Only-Begotten Son; then a second profound bow in the same manner in honor of God the Son, Who redeemed us upon the Life-Creating Wood also by venerating it with a kiss; and then a third profound bow in honor of God the Holy Spirit, Who sanctifies us by the Precious Blood of Christ flowing from the Holy Cross. Let us always respectfully venerate this great symbol of God's love and mercy towards us!

**FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & COMMISSIONING CATECHETICS** — Today

commences our 2017-2018 Catechetical Educational Year following the morning Divine Liturgy. All Catechist will be commissioned in a short ceremonial program and receive a blessing to go "forth in peace." Our Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.) Program is vital to the spiritual formation of our youth. Parents, please see that your children are enrolled in this program. Religious Education is important if any young teen-ager (14 and over) is asked to be a sponsor for Baptism and/or Chrismation (Confirmation). If you have any questions, please contact Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 344-6523



**RESERVATIONS CONTINUE FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS** — Divine Liturgy and



Sanctuary Lamp reservation dates continue to be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both of these areas only two weekends of each will be accepted. When the demand subsides you will be able to reserve additional weekend dates. Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend (per candle/DL) in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and place it in the collection basket. You may reserve unlimited weekday DL's! Please don't wait or you'll be late!!!