

Parish Offerings – 17th Sunday after Pentecost — September 16, 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 (\$1,670.50) YP (\$11)	\$1,681.50
Holy Days (\$214.75) YP (\$1)	215.25
Votive Candles	108.50
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	\$2,005.25

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

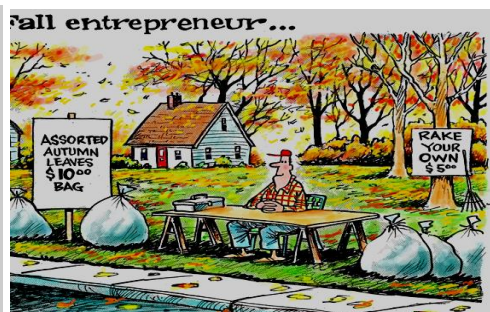
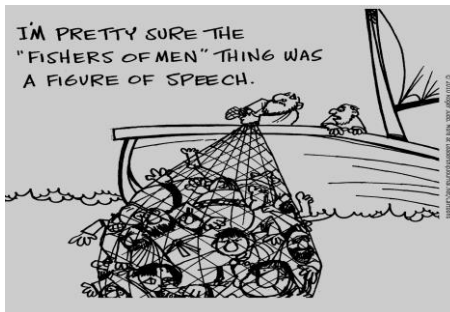
Regular Offering	\$538.70
Holy Days	15.00
Special Donation (In mem. of +Mike Sotak, Jr. by wife: Jane)	100.00
Votive Candles	45.51
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	\$701.21

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (47)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (93); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)

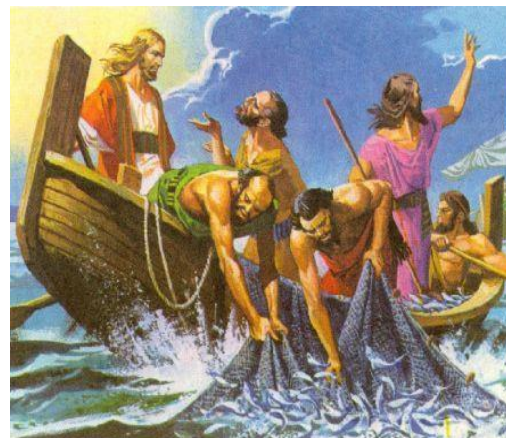
Elevation of the Precious Cross, Fri, Sept. 14 — (MR) *8:50 a.m. (9); (NS) *5:50 p.m. (18)



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

THE 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 23, 2018



Autumn is here.



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

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 Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY
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 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society
 Lodge 390 offers Insurance and
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 most financial institutions. Info
 call Tina (412) 859-9597

**This space available
 for ads for wishing
 someone birthday or
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 get-well wishes, etc.
 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 23, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 38



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
18th Sunday after Pentecost			
SUN., Sept 23	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Marie Wittmer	Mary Ann Smoley
Mon Sept 24	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Alexander F. Perschy <i>(9th ann of passing)</i>	Son: Kurt
Tue, Sept 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joyce D. Ray <i>(birthday)</i>	Ed Juhascik
Passing of the Holy Apostle & Evangelist John			
Wed, Sept 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Muska	Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.
Thrs, Sept 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Julie Ann Bersavage	Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz
Venerable Father Chariton, Confessor of the Faith			
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) in remembrance of Our Lord's Crucifixion and Death upon the Precious Cross			
Fri, Sept 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Gramata <i>(64th ann of passing 9/29)</i>	Brother: Basil & Eleanor Gramata
Sat, Sept. 29	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula <i>(1st ann of passing)</i>	Judy & Ray Haski

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Maslaney + Kapko + Skowron Families Michael Maslaney

19th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Sept 30	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ John Spontak <i>(15th ann of passing 10/2)</i>	Son: Robert & Joyce

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 23 – Charles Alman, Kathleen Charochak, THERESA FITZURKA, TAMARA HARDING, Tam Revtai, Cecelia Rose Slight; **Sept 25** – CINDY MEADERS, JOYCE SMIECHOWSKI; **Sept 28** – Millie Sotak; **Sept 29** – Irene Bednar, Kayla Marks.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona 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.
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.
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR (1028 Benton Ave., PGH 15212): MARY SAHAYDA
VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.
HEALTHSOUTH OF SEWICKLEY (303 Camp Meeting Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen Hopley.
OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Millie Sotak.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. My siblings and I were raised in a good Catholic home but now, as adults, we no longer all share the same moral code—some follow authentic Catholic Church doctrine while others rationalize that their immoral lifestyles are actually moral. Any time I try to help family members, I'm viewed as an intolerant religious freak. Even my parents consider my efforts to be out of line and hurtful. **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** You have an obligation to raise your children in the truth, teaching them genuine morals. This may mean unrest in your family, as you have already seen. But it may comfort you to know that Jesus recognized family division would sometimes be an issue for those who remain faithful to him: Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (Mt 10:34-38)

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

September 23, 2018 — September 29, 2018

(MR): **In memory of John Kundrat** *(28th ann of passing 9/23)*

offered by Wife: Theresa

(NS): **In memory of Anna & George Guzo**

(MR) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2019 offered by Nephew: Basil & Eleanor Gramata (NS) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2019

McKees Rocks Announcements

PARISHIONER VETERAN HONORED IN ROBINSON TOWNSHIP — The next time that you are traveling on Forrest Grove Road & Magnus Drive in Robinson Township look for the telephone pole to see a young Army soldier who served our Country during World War II. It is the late **parishioner + Charles Wovchko**. Our parish is proud of our veterans and we posthumously salute Charles and all deceased veterans, especially, of Holy Ghost Church who have served in the military. If there are any other parish military veterans whose banner is posted, please contact the church office, and we'll also put a picture of it in an upcoming S.O.T.Church Bulletin.



KENNYWOOD PIROHI FEST TODAY — **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. 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 NEXT SATURDAY — Calling all volunteers!! The annual Autumn Cleanup is slated for next week. 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

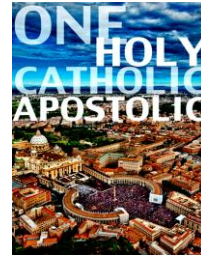


SCANDLE IN THE CHURCH (cont.) — **(3) Catholic:** To be catholic is to be universal. A purely invisible Church can claim universality, but only a visible Church can prove it. What we see in denominations claiming to be part of an invisible Church is constant breakups, with one faction claiming that another isn't truly Christian. But in a visible Church, the Catholic Church, we can see with our own eyes the same faith practiced from America to Africa to Asia. **Apostolic: (4) Apostolic:** Christ himself picked twelve men to lead his Church. He wanted them to be the visible leaders so that all men would know that communion with the apostles meant communion with him. The apostles understood how important a visible leadership was, and so they appointed successors—the bishops—to take up their mantle after their deaths. The hierarchy of the Church is a visible sign of the continuity of the Church—in teaching and in practice—from the time of the apostles to today. Even during a time of many scandals within the Church, there is nothing more scandalous than the Church itself. It reflects the reality that God has taken this broken material world—and its equally broken inhabitants—and uses it to bring us to him. It is a constant sign to the world that the material, physical world matters. We are each a body/soul composite, and so we need physical as well as spiritual signs to direct us to God. Just as God came into this world as a visible man, he gave us a visible Church to lead us into the next world.

The Scandal of the Church

(The following article has appeared on the Catholic Answers Webpage, and is reprinted to give understanding to the Catholic Church's perspective concerning the subject matter. The author is Eric Sammons, Catholic Apologist — September 20, 2018)

In the second century, the Church faced its first great heresy: Gnosticism. This confusing and eclectic system of beliefs threatened to destroy the Church in its infancy. Among Gnosticism's tenets was the conviction that the material world is contemptible, unworthy of redemption. Unlike the Christian view that the material world was originally created good but then fell through sin, Gnostics believed that the world we live in was created as the result of some tragic accident. Only the spiritual world mattered; anything physical was to be left behind. Against this heresy rose the great Church Father St. Irenaeus ... explained that the key doctrine of Christianity is the Incarnation: the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The physical world is not to be held in contempt; on the contrary, it provides the means of our salvation. Although eventually Gnosticism was conquered, its material/spiritual dualism has reared its ugly head throughout Church history. Many heresies borrowed it, including Manichaeism, the heresy embraced for a time by St. Augustine. And although Protestantism does not fully endorse a material/spiritual dualism, there are aspects of this flawed worldview in its belief system—for example, in its rejection of a visible Church. In the most common Protestant view (since there are always competing views within Protestantism), the Church is an invisible entity made up of all Christian believers (how a "believer" is defined also varies among Protestants). Any visible manifestations, such as leaders or physical sacraments or buildings, are merely tools Christians use for practical reasons. None are essential to the Church, and all can be discarded if need be. In contrast, the Catholic faith teaches that there is a visible Church here on earth, founded by Christ himself. It includes a visible membership—the baptized—and a visible leadership structure: the hierarchy of bishops and the service of ordained priests and deacons. These visible aspects are fundamental to the Church and cannot be discarded. Throughout history, many Christians have been scandalized at the visible quality of the Church, usually because of the un-Christian behavior of its members. Scandals within the Church emphasize the scandal of the Church. There is a certain attractive neatness to the idea of a purely invisible Church. If a leader commits some egregious sin, then one can simply claim he wasn't really part of the true, invisible Church (which contains only the pure and holy). Since the Church's membership is invisible, this can never be disproven. We can even understand why this notion of an invisible Church gained so much traction in the sixteenth century; after all, this was a time of great moral crisis in the visible institution of the Catholic Church. Many priests were immoral and many bishops were corrupt, and some popes were both. How could these men be part of Christ's Church? So the simple answer—they're not—proliferated. Yet in spite of all the scandalous sins among its clergy and hierarchy, Catholics continued to insist that Christ founded a visible Church, and that we can know with certainty who are the members and who are the leaders. Why this insistence? Because **visibility is essential to each of the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.** **(1) One:** Visibility is perhaps most important to the oneness—the unity—of the Church. We see this clearly by the opposite example: the disunity of Protestantism, which teaches a purely invisible Church. If the universal Church is invisible, it doesn't matter if you belong to the Presbyterians or Methodists or Lutherans. It also doesn't matter, then, if your beliefs are unified. An emphasis on invisibility ultimately leads to tens of thousands of visible denominations teaching conflicting belief systems. **(2) Holy: Although the visible Church has always had sinners in its midst, it has also always possessed the means of holiness.** And the primary means of holiness are the very visible sacraments. Through material things such as water, bread, wine, and oil, Christ dispenses his graces upon his followers. With the sacraments, we can know with certainty that holiness is attainable; without the sacraments, we can only guess.(cont. near end).



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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.
 October 5 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
 October 6-7 Coffee & Doughnut Social following each of the weekend Divine Liturgies.
 Oct 7-11 Annual Archieparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochean Retreat Center, Ligonier.
 October 12 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
 October 15 (MR) PAC/PFC Meeting in Church Office @ 7:00 p.m.
 October 16 (NS) PAC/PFC Meeting in Church Social Center @ 6:00 p.m.
 October 19 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
 October 21 Freewill Pasta Dinner, St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 October 26 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week

THE HOLY MARTYR CALLISTRATUS & COMPANIONS — September 27

Callistratus was born in Carthage. He was a Christian from birth, for his father and grandfather were Christians. One of Callistratus's ancestors, Neochorus by name, was a soldier in Jerusalem under Pontius Pilate, at the time of the Crucifixion



of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Witnessing the many miracles at the time of Christ's death, Neochorus believed in Him, and was instructed in the Faith and baptized by an apostle. Returning home to Carthage, Neochorus brought his Christian Faith with him as a precious pearl. So it was that in time Callistratus was born, baptized and raised a Christian. While he was in the army there were no other Christians in his regiment besides him. One of his companions, seeing how **St. Callistratus arose at night and prayed to God, reported him as a Christian to the commander, Persentinian.** Persentinian was a cruel torturer of Christians. In order to confirm

that Callistratus was indeed a Christian, the commander ordered him to offer sacrifice to the idols, which Callistratus straightway refused to do. He was then severely beaten and thrown into the sea. However, the power of God saved him, and he emerged from the sea in sound health. *Seeing Callistratus's endurance and miracles, forty-nine other soldiers came to believe in Christ.* They were beaten and thrown into prison with Callistratus. In prison Callistratus taught his companions the Faith, and strengthened them. They displayed great bravery in suffering, and the Lord manifested great power through them. Then the evil torturer sent soldiers to the prison by night, and they slew St. Callistratus and his forty-nine companions. They suffered for the truth in the year 304. A church was later built over their relics.

General Announcements

PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO SERVE PASTA DINNER — Mark your calendars!



The Priests and Deacons in the Pittsburgh Deanery will be again hosting a FREE PASTA DINNER at St. Elias Church, Munhall on **Sunday October 21, 2018** from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. A signup list is located in the Church. We must know how many to prepare for! The final day for registration is Sunday, *October 14.* A *freewill offering will be taken to subsidize the project. Any profit that will*

be made will go to the Archieparchial Priests' Pension Plan. Come join us; it a bye week for the Steelers!

ARCHIEPARCHIAL ASSEMBLY 2018 — Last Sunday Evening through Tuesday Afternoon (Sept. 16-18) clergy and laity throughout the Archeparchy gathered at St. John Cathedral to



discuss methods of how to increase membership in all parishes. A more detailed report will be included in an upcoming edition of *The Byzantine Catholic World.* The laity persons representing our parishes were: (MR) **Nick Kotik** and (NS) cleric **Deacon Michael Meaders.** The subject matters discussed were (1)

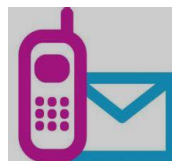


Education; (2) Social involvement within the Church; and (3) the implementation of Social Media to reach church going parishioners and those who no longer attend Church. Following a full day of deliberations, a dinner-boat ride was enjoyed on the Gateway Clipper. God bless Nick and Deacon Michael for us.

FINAL DAY FOR FOOD FEST — St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, PA 15120 is holding their final day of their ST. ELIAS FOOD FEAST. They are featuring ethnic favorites such as Chicken Paprikas, potato cheese pirohi, stuffed cabbage, Haluski, along with other Food Fest favorites. There is also a bake sale. Entertainment this afternoon will feature Frank Powaski Polka Show broadcast and Polka specialties. Credit Cards will be taken on the main food line.



DID YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS? — We are preparing labels for the upcoming contribution envelope boxes. We wish to make sure that we have your current address on file along with a current email address. Please notify the Church Office if there are any changes. Also, please use your contribution envelopes. Your sacrificial offerings help to continue the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and the administration of the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) at our Holy Ghost Church. Just as you are required to meet your fiduciary obligations at home, so must we here at the Church. It is a Universal Church Precept to meet this responsibility. The Church understands that in times of economic distress and shortcomings this may not be tentatively possible. If you are not able to contribute please contact the pastor. He will understand. Remember to be a sponsor at Baptism/Chrismation or to be married in the Church this Precept of the Church (this is only one of six) must be fulfilled!



Update your contact info!