

Parish Offerings – 27th Sunday after Pentecost — November 25, 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 (\$1,772) YP (\$12)	\$1,784.00
Holy Days (\$133) YP (\$1) Thanksgiving (\$230)	364.00
Christmas Décor (\$152) Archdiocesan Charities (\$20)	172.00
Votive Candles	116.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,436.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$440.41
Holy Days (\$25) Thanksgiving (\$115)	140.00
Utilities (\$5) Improvement (\$25)	30.00
Votive Candles (\$48.25) Christmas Décor (\$25)	73.25
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	\$683.66

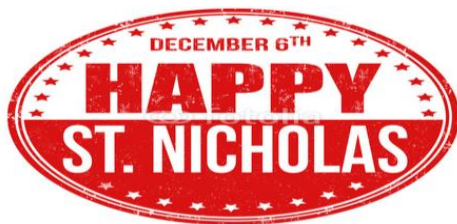
TREE OF LIFE SYNAGOGUE DONATION – (MR) \$843; (NS) \$95.00
Thank you for participating in the Archieparchial Special Collection

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (46)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (70); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (31)

The problem with the rich young ruler was not that he had riches but rather that the riches had him.



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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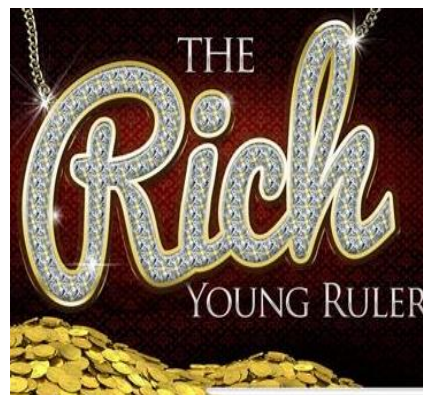
This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc.
Call the office (412) 771-3324

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 28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast
December 2, 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
Liturgical Services LIVE: www.Youtube.com then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

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: (412) 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).

December 2, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 48



Glory to Jesus Christ — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu!! — Slava Na Viki!
Liturgical Services for the Week



Date Time Intention Requested By

28th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 2 (18) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare (Birthday) Kurt W. Perschy
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Dec 3 (19) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Cifrulak + Kulka Families Kathy & John Kulka

Tue, Dec 4 (20) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Florence (Flo) Szal (birthday 12/3) Nancy & Mark Cifrulak

The Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Wed, Dec 5 (21) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Richard J. Whetstone (3rd ann of passing 11/29) Joseph Mitro

Feast of Our Holy Father, Nicholas the Wonder-Worker

Patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church — Mirovanije

THRS, DEC 6 (22) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Br. Felix, O.F.M. (3rd ann of passing) Br. Regis, OFM

The Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Fri, Dec 7 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George W. Hornak Sister: + Helena Bartha & Family

6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of both Parishes

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Solemn Feast: Pure Conception of St. Anne — Patroness of Our Country — Mirovanije

SAT, Dec 8 (24) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Bishop Andrew Pataki (7th ann of pass)
+ Fr. John Kasarda (10th ann of pass)



Anticipated Divine Liturgy of Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

29th Sunday after Pentecost

4th Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 9 (25) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Lubas (5th ann of passing) + Esther Kallop & Kim
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Stanley Lubinski (2nd ann of passing) Friend



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

Dec 2 – Kurt W. Perschy; Dec 5 – Lee Feldman.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuonas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Betty Spisak, 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): Marjorie Preganz.

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.

NEW HOPE ASSISTED LIVING (300 Union Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15202): Helen Hopyey.

VENCENTIAN HOME (111 Perrymont Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): ANNA TOTH.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I am dating a Calvinist. He has been trying to understand my faith, and I struggle sometimes with the answers. He asked me where in the Bible do we get the belief in the Immaculate Conception? And if God did that for Mary, why wouldn't he do it for David, Abraham, or Moses? And why did Mary need to be immaculately conceived? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: It wasn't a matter of what God the Father did for Mary, but what he did for Jesus. What so many people don't understand is that the Immaculate Conception of Mary is all about Jesus. It was because he was to take on his human nature in her womb that God deigned her to be free of all sin and therefore "full of grace" (Lk 1:28). It would be unthinkable, given the revelation that we have in Scripture and Tradition, for him to be conceived in anything but a holy place. David, Abraham, and Moses weren't called to give birth to Jesus.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

December 2, 2018 — December 8, 2018

(MR): In memory of James M. Droter (56th ann of passing 11/26)

offered by Margaret & James Lautenschlager

(NS): For the Ill & Suffering of Both Parishes

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019

offered by Anonymous

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2019

McKees Rocks Announcements

ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR LESS FORTUNATE AREA CHILDREN — GCU Lodge 390 is, once again, holding a fraternal activity to help area children who may not be getting much for Christmas this year. This project is the ANGEL TREE will be located near the elevator in the side vestibule. If you would like to participate and make a child's Christmas a little brighter this year you are asked to take an angel from the tree. It will have a child's age listed on the back. You are asked to purchase a gift and bring it back to the tree UNWRAPPED with the angel taped on it no later than **next Sunday, December 9.** Children from Holy Family Social Services and Family Foundation will distribute these gifts to the children in time for Christmas. Let's send this entire tree of angels in the form of gifts to these underprivileged children. We thank Barbara & Peter Stecko for taking care of this project.



PHILIPPIN FAST PIROHI SALES CONTINUE — will resume this Friday, December 7 & 14. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, or by phone on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. We will only be making a limited amount under this continued format. Eat-ins will still be available. We could use additional help, especially pinchers when we resume!



DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE FOR THREE WEEKS — In our love and compassion for the less fortunate, we are collecting and dispersing nonperishable food items in time for Christmas. Last day will be December 16. Please bring non-expired items to the Church and place them in the provided boxes. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092



CHURCH DECORATING TOMMORROW — We will begin decorating the Church for Christmas on Monday, **December 3, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.** Please make an effort to come and give a helping hand. We're going to need muscle power for the heavy work of setting up the trees.



PLASTIC BAG COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS — One of our "Byzan-TEENS," Ray Rippole is a Freshman at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. As President of our youth group, Ray is organizing a collection of plastic grocery bags from Holy Ghost parishioners. Sr. Francine Horos, a Felician Sister and Math Department Chair at OLSH, and the Heartstrings knitting activity work together to fashion a plastic yarn from the bags which is knit into a waterproof sleeping mat for the homeless. It takes 700 bags to make just one mat.



Please consider bringing in your plastic grocery bags and leaving them in the collection box found at each entrance. Thank you for helping to recycle and care for the less fortunate.

Holy Ghost, Northside

CHURCH DECORATING TODAY — We will begin decorating the Church for Christmas following today's Sunday Divine Liturgy, **December 2, 2018.** Please make an effort to come and give a helping hand. We're going to need muscle power for the heavy work of setting up the trees



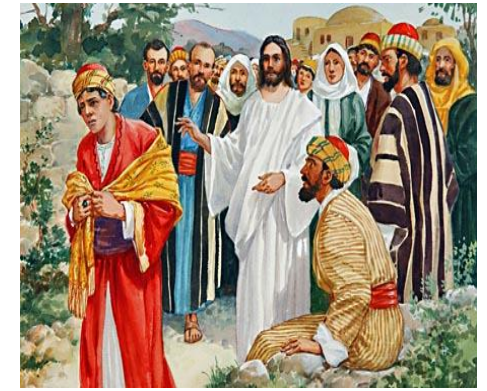
SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD TO OUR RETIRED AND ILL PRIESTS — Although you may not know them, they will surely appreciate a remembrance: (1) Former pastor, **Fr. Robert Karl**, 235 Logan Road, Gibsonsia, PA 15044; (3) **Archpriest Dennis Bodga**, **St. Barnabas Nursing Home**, 5827 Meridian Rd., Gibsonsia, PA 15044. Let them know that you are from Holy Ghost Church.

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS READY FOR PICKUP!
Please **DO NOT** SUBMIT 2019 envelopes until January 1

Meditation on today's Gospel

Are we willing to RENOUNCE all that keeps us from God?
Luke 18:18-27

Once a rich young man asked Jesus what he had to do to be saved. Our Lord answered him in two stages: He told him that first it was necessary to keep the commandments, then to sell his riches and follow Him. The foundation of a Christian life, therefore, is the keeping of the commandments and its perfection is our renunciation of anything that would keep us apart from Christ. Ideally, the life of a Christian progresses from observance of laws to perfect conformity to God's will through union with Him. For most, however, throughout our whole life we will have to struggle to keep the commandments. We should not turn away from the task sadly as did the rich young man (Lk 18:23), for although in this life we may never completely integrate the two poles of the Christian life, the beginnings of faith and perfect union with Christ, it has been accomplished for us through baptism and Communion by God's power and grace. Our commitment is to freely accept this gift of God to which Christ invites each of us. As he promises, "You will live in my love if you keep my commandments" (Jn. 15:10).



Pope Francis Speaks — The Year of Faith Pope's General Audience at St. Peter Square Nov. 28, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters, *In this, our final catechesis on the Ten Commandments, we reflect on how, in the light of Christ, the Decalogue should be seen not as a series of rules, but rather the guide to an authentic human life that comes to fulfillment in the love, joy and peace born of obedience to the Father's will. Our Lord came not to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. The Holy Spirit, by enabling us to live a new life in Christ, takes away our hearts of flesh and opens them to the holy desire to abandon sin and to be conformed to Jesus' own heart, his love and his desires. The Ten Commandments invite us first to enter into a faithful and loving relationship with God our Father, to reject every false idol that enslaves us, and to find our authentic rest in the freedom of Christ and the Holy Spirit. They then teach us how to live redeemed lives, marked by fidelity, integrity and honesty towards our neighbor. The commandments show us the face of Christ and open the door to the new life of grace; by accepting God's offer of saving love, we find our true selves and the source of a joy that will never end.*



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2 (MR) Parish St. Nicholas Celebration.
 Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 December 3 Decorating the (MR) Church for Christmas @ 6:00 p.m.
 December 6 Solemn Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 December 8 Solemn Feast of Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 Slavjane Christmas Party following the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy.
 December 9 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.
 December 16 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.
 December 22 Tentative Installation of New Altar Servers & St. Aquilina Ministry
 December 23 Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 3:00 p.m.
 December 24 (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours); (MR) 1:00 p.m. Vespers w/DL of St. Basil the Great.

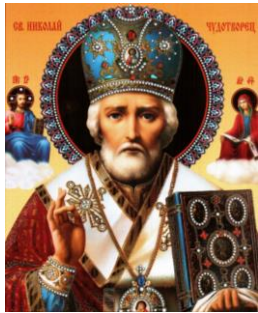
8:00 p.m. (MR) Great Compline followed by Christmas Carols; 9:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy.
December 25 . 9:00 a.m. (MR) Christmas Divine Liturgy; 11:00 a.m. (NS) Christmas Divine Liturgy.

 December 26 2nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.
 December 27 3rd Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen DL – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
 December 28 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Golden Corral @ 6:00 p.m.
 December 29 Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 4:00 p.m.
 December 30 Regular Sunday Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 11:00 a.m.
 January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 am.

Saint of the Week — December 6

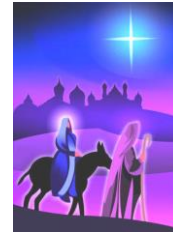
Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, the Wonder-Worker

This glorious saint, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of the city of Patara in Lycia. Since he was the only son bestowed on them by God, the parents returned the gift to God by dedicating their son to Him. **St. Nicholas** learned of the spiritual life from his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand is doing (Mt 6:3). By God's wondrous providence, Nicholas was chosen as the archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. During the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian, he was cast into prison, but even there he instructed the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea [325] and, out of great zeal for the truth, struck the heretic Arius with his hand. For this act he was removed from the Council and from his archiepiscopal duties, until the Lord Christ Himself and the Holy Theotokos appeared to several of the chief hierarchs and revealed their approval of Nicholas. A defender of God's truth, this wonderful saint was ever bold as a defender of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from an undeserved sentence of death. Merciful, truthful, and a lover of justice, he walked among the people as an angel of God. He appeared both in dreams and in person to those who called upon him, and he helped them easily and speedily, whether close at hand or far away. In old age he became ill for a short time and entered into the rest of the Lord, after a life full of labor and very fruitful toil, to rejoice eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles and to glorify his God. He entered into rest on December 6, 343. *He is the Patron of our Byzantine-Ruthenian (Rusyn) Catholic Church.*

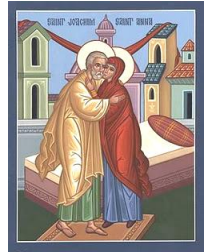


General Announcements

THE 3rd SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS — We continue our journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem by preparing ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. Not only prior to Christmas but always through our earthly pilgrimage, we must carry Him reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. It is through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings, frequent confession of sins, works of virtue and additional participation in Divine Liturgies, we can accomplish this end. Together as a parish, let us collectively practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (required) for the intention for the return of our beloved back to Church. The color **PURPLE** is worn as a sign of **ROYALTY** of the One to be born in Bethlehem.



THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THIS WEEK — The soul of the Virgin Mary whom God had chosen from all eternity to be the Mother in the flesh of the Incarnate Word was created full of grace and free from original sin, united to a body formed according to the laws of nature through the operation of love of her parents, Joachim and Anne. This privilege, accepted throughout the centuries, was officially proclaimed as a dogma by Pope Pius IX in the year 1854. It is known in the Catholic Church as the Immaculate Conception. Come join us as we honor the Holy Theotokos's Most Pure Conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne this week (cf. liturgical schedule).



LEARN ABOUT THE ANNULMENT PROCESS THIS WEEK — Divorced Catholics and others who may be interested in learning about the annulment process are welcome to attend a free workshop with Jay Conzemius, JCL, judge and moderator; and Diane Kass, Tribunal Notary, of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Tribunal and Diocese of Pittsburgh Tribunal. Topics will include: theology of marriage; ministry of the tribunal; marriage annulment types; why, when and how to start the petition for annulment process; and a process overview. Afterward participants can ask questions and/or start the process. ***This important presentation will take place at St. John Byzantine Catholic Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m.***



ARCHIEPARCHIAL CHOIR "CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL" — The AC invites you to share the spirit and joy of the Nativity season as they present "Christmas at the Cathedral." This annual choral event takes place **Sunday, December 16, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.** at the Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall. Following the sing-along finale, a hospitality reception with refreshments and Christmas treats will be held in the lower level of the Cathedral. Let us support the Choir, since many of our parishioners are members.

SPECIAL TIMES FOR THE HOLY MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS — Special Confession times has been arranged to the following days & times to accommodate making a good Confession prior to Our Lord's Holy Nativity. **MR - Sunday, December 23, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m. & on the NS - Friday, December 21, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.** Also, Confessions are available at the regular times as indicated on the front of the S.O.T. Church Bulletin. *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins before Christmas!* Prepare the Bethlehem of your soul and the manger of your heart for Our Lord's Holy Nativity. If you haven't made a Confession in many years, please do so at this time! A special guide is provided for you to examine your conscience can be picked up in the side vestibule & narthex. ***Please make this a priority!***