Parish Offerings – Holy Theophany — Jan 6, 2019

"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 (\$2,633) YP (\$15)	\$2,648.00
Holy Days (\$965) YP (\$3)	968.00
Initial (\$235) YP (\$6) Coffee Social (\$18)	
Votive Candles	

\$3,962.00

\$1.180.02

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$468.52
Holy Days	461.00
Initial (\$65) Utilities (\$10) Improvement (\$90)	
Votive Candles (\$71.50) B.C.W. (\$14)	85.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat. (MR) 4:00 p.m. (63)

Sun. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (71); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (33)





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
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(412) 771-3324

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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

Sunday After The Enlightenment

Postfestive of Theophany — January 13, 2019





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!

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).

January 13, 2019

Christian Greeting (until Jan 14)

Volume IX, Number 2



Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan! Christos Krescajetsja! — Vo Jordani!



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 13 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia + John Borsh Family 11:00 a.m. (NS + Dolores + Tony Nee. Alice G. Slagle

Final Day of the Theophany Feast

Mon, Jan 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Tue, Jan 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Maletz Son: Bob & Martha

Wed, Jan 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Pauline Wargo Gaydas

Anonymous

Our Venerable Father Anthony the Great

Thrs, Jan 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marcella Zeiger (birthday) George & Julia Mosko

Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENANCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance) for Peace in the whole world

Fri, Jan 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Elinor Uram

Anonymous.

Sat, Jan 19 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Thirty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Claudia C. Verner Husband: George (2nd ann of passing 1/17)

The 35™ Sunday After Pentecost

3rd day of prayer for Christian Unity — Prolife Weekend

SUN., JAN 20 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

11:00 a.m. (NS + Anna Pungras.

(30th ann of passing 1/16)

Dgtr: Anna Pungras Demianczyk

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 13 – Mariella Kassabov, Noreen Muha; Jan 14 – James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole, Anna Mae Sejka; Jan 15 – William Boros; Jan 16 – Edward Connor; Jan 18 – Michael Ferrell; Jan 19 – Barbara Lutz.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, GEORGE HUNDAICK, SR; MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Betty Spisak, EVELYN VENTO, Anita Wolsko, 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 Hopey.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Did the early Church baptize infants?. **A.** Answer by Catholic Answers: There is no doubt that the early Church practiced infant baptism. Christ himself proclaimed the suitability of infants for initiation into the kingdom (Luke 18:15-16), and Peter declared: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children" (Acts 2:38–39). The apostolic Church practiced the baptism of whole households, with no exceptions mentioned for small children (Acts 16:16, 33, 1 Cor. 1:16). There is no record anywhere in the Bible of a child of a Christian first having to reach the age of reason and then being baptized.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 13, 2019 — January 19, 2019



(MR): In memory of Claudia A. Verner (2nd ann of passing 1/17) offered by Husband: George

(NS): In memory of Michael Sotak, Jr.

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2019

offered by Wife: Jane

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2019

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED TODAY — Following today's Divine Liturgy we



are asking all to volunteer and help put away the festive decorations. This date has been moved from Monday to Sunday since more parishioners will be in Church. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider offering an hour of your time. especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.

OUR PIROHI PROCEEDS FROM THIS PAST SEASON — Balance in Pirohi Parish Savings \$61,149.50. Total Proceeds Nov. to Dec. 2018 17,188.00; GCU Matching Funds Kennywood: \$200.00; GCU Matching Funds Pirohi Project: \$780.00; Total: \$18,168.00; Minus Pirohi Expenses (\$3,259.34); Minus Cathedraticum: (\$745.43); Rivers Casino (\$371.45); Sent to Pirohi Parish Savings: \$13,791.78; Current Balance in our Parish Savings & Share: \$75.921.28. Plans will soon be underway to initiate the renovation our two Church Basement Restrooms; and the two Restrooms in the gym. Computer generated plans are available near the restrooms for viewing.

Holy Ghost, Northside

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The Spirit of Truth announces the passing of Anna Toth, 90, of



Pittsburgh at the Vincentian Home on Sunday, January 6, 2019. She had previously been residing at the Sheptytsky Arms Apartments on the Northside. She leaves no immediate family except for 2 nieces and a nephew. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, Northside. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Wednesday, Jan 9th. Interment followed at Christ our Redeemer, North Catholic Cemetery, Pittsburgh.. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal

rest to your servant, Anna, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION SOON TO BE DISMANTLED NEXT WEEKEND — We no

sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it's time to dismantle it for another year. Following the Divine Liturgy on January 20, 2019, we are asking all volunteers to help put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider offering an hour of your time, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.



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.



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.

Our Holy Father's General Audience Vatican City State — January 9, 2019



Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Lord's Prayer, we now consider Jesus' teaching on the need for perseverance in prayer. We see from the Gospels that Christ's entire life is steeped in prayer, born of his communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit who guides his every action. Jesus' constant prayer is seen above all in the events of his passion. At the Last Supper, he intercedes for Peter's perseverance in faith (cf. Lk 22:32), and his last words from the cross are a prayer for forgiveness and a confession of trust in the Father's will. When the disciples ask Jesus to show them how to pray, he gives them the words of the "Our Father". But he goes on to tell two

parables that teach the need for constancy in prayer and unwayering trust that the Father will answer our petitions. As a good Father, God answers every prayer in his good time and according to his saving plan. Though the unfolding of that plan remains mysterious, we can be confident that, in the end, ours is a loving Father who longs to fulfil the desire for happiness present in every human heart.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 13	Dismatling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
January 18-25	Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
January 20	Dismatling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Divine Liturgy.
January 22	46th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion.
January 30	Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs: 9:00 a.m. (MR); 6:00 p.m. (NS).
February 1	Divine Liturgy and Sanctification of Candles 6:00 p.m. (NS).
February 2	Encounter of the Lord Divine Liturgy w/Sanctification of Candles 9:00 a.m. (MR).

Saint of the Week

The Venerable John the Hut-Dweller — January 9

Saint John the Hut-Dweller was the son of rich and illustrious parents, and was born in



Constantinople in the early fifth century. He received a fine education, and he mastered rhetoric and philosophy by the age of twelve. He also loved to read spiritual books. Perceiving the vanity of worldly life, he chose the path that was narrow and extremely difficult. Filled with longing to enter a monastery, he asked his parents for a Gospel so that he might study the words of Christ.. John read the Gospel constantly, delighting in the Savior's words. He went secretly to Bithynia to a monastery of the "Unsleeping" (Akoimitoi), he received monastic tonsure. The young monk began his ascetical labors with zeal, astonishing the brethren with his unceasing prayer. humble obedience, strict abstinence, and perseverance at work. After six years, he began to undergo temptations. He remembered his parents, how much they loved him, and what sorrow he caused them. He regretted leaving them, and was filled with a burning

desire to see them again. The Superior of the monastery then blessed him for his journey. Saint John returned to Constantinople, dressed as a beggar, and unknown to anyone. He settled in a corner by the gates of his parents' home. His father noticed the "pauper," and began to send him food from his table, for the sake of Christ. John lived in a small hut for three years, oppressed and insulted by the servants, enduring cold and frost, unceasingly conversing with the Lord and the holy angels. Before his death, the Lord appeared to the monk in a vision, revealing that the end of his sorrows was approaching, and that in three days he would be taken into the Heavenly Kingdom. Therefore, he asked the steward to give his mother a message to come to him, for he had something to say to her. At first, she did not wish to go, but she was curious to know what this beggar had to say to her. Then he sent her another message, saying that he would die in three days. John thanked her for the charity he had received, and told her that God would reward her for it. He then made her promise to bury him beneath his hut, dressed in his rags. Only then did the saint give her his Gospel, which he always carried with him, saying, "May this console you in this life, and guide you to the next life." She showed the Gospel to her husband, saying that it was similar to the one they had given their son. He realized that it was, in fact, the very Gospel they had commissioned for John. They went back to the gates, intending to ask the pauper where he got the Gospel, and if he knew anything about their son. Unable to restrain himself any longer, he admitted that he was their child. With tears of joy they embraced him, weeping because he had endured privation for so long at the very gates of his parental home. The saint died in the mid-fifth century, when he was not quite twenty-five years old. On the place of his burial the parents built a church, and beside it a hostel for strangers. When they died, they were buried in the church they had built.

General Announcements

WHY YOUR HOME SHOULD BE BLESSED EACH YEAR — Traditionaly, the priest



personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our homes we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it

and its inhabitants. As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office.

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS BY REQUEST— If you would like a record of your 2018

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. Individual Financial reports will only be given on requests. Any contributions received in 2018 envelopes will be credited to your 2019 record for the end of this New Year. Thank you for remembering your Church throughout 2018! May God bless your sacrificial generosity so that our Holy Ghost Church



may continue to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). — END OF THE YEAR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS CAN BE SENT VIA E-MAIL IN JANUARY! PLEASE REQUEST IT NOW BY SUBMITTING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY — Friday begins 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). The theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue." (Deuteronomy 16:18-20). As Catholics who have the fullness of the faith, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Each of the 8 days invites us to think about the situation of church division and about how, concretely, we can remedy that. We are already witnesses and we need to become better witnesses. Let us offer the following prayer each of these eight days: "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."

Remember to discard last year's Sanctified Water in a respectable manner and place! It is not to be poured down the sink drain!