

**Parish Offerings – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — Aug, 20, 2017**

“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 (\$1,894) YP (\$7) ..... \$1,901.00  
 Holy Days (\$363) YP (\$2) ..... 365.00  
 Votive Candles ..... 107.50

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 \$2,373.50

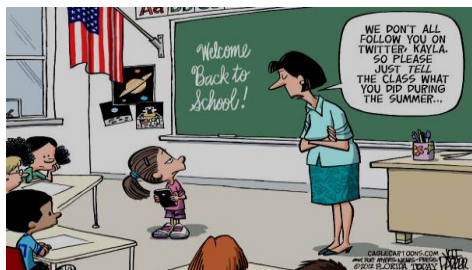
**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering ..... \$411.60  
 Holy Days ..... 35.00  
 Votive Candles ..... 44.94

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 \$491.54

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (43)  
 Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (77); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (38)



**Valerian F. Szal**  
 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*



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**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

**An anonymous donor extends prayerful best wishes to our students and school teachers for God's blessings in the 2017-2018 academic year!**

**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 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**August 27, 2017**



**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)**

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.
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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 Margaret Beliuнас (412) 331-3577 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).

August 27, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 35



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

SUN., Aug 27 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kulka Children: Kathy & John  
(11<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/26)  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna + George Toth Dgr: Anna  
Mon, Aug 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Charles "Pete" Latta Paula, George & James Latta

### Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist, John — Simple Holy Day

Traditional Day of Strict Abstinence (no meat or dairy) — RECOMMENDED  
SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (No Meat) & no serving or eating on a platter or dish

Tue, Aug 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Robert G. Wolsko Wife: Anita  
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



Final Day of the Commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist Feast Day  
Wed, Aug 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia Firko (birthday) Son: Fr. Firko  
Thrs, Aug 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John A. Jumba (wed ann) Wivell Family

Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical Year — The Year of the Indiction  
First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)  
for the intention for peace in our country



Fri, Sept 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Elsie Eberle M/M John S. Securda  
First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Sat, Sept. 2 \*8:00 a.m. (NS) + Rev. Dr. Annette B. Bolds The Bolds Family  
(2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 9/3)

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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Thirteenth after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Geraldine Nazak Mike, Leyte & Mikey Tomchak

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

83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage — Labor Weekend

SUN., Sept 3 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fedorowich (birthday) + Dgr: Joyce Ray  
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: Aug 27 – Ilona Goyda; Aug 28 – Amy Sclight; Aug 29 – William Babin; Aug 31 – David Burns.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, Michael Spisak, MSGR. PETER TAY, 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.  
VALENCIA WOODS OF ST. BARNABAS (85 Charity Pl., Valencia, PA 16059): Eleanor Kapko.  
SUNRISE OF EAST COBB (1551 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta, GA 30062): AGNES KNOLL.  
CARING HEIGHTS (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Margaret Beliuas.  
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. Is it a more serious sin to receive Communion unworthily than to commit the unconfessed mortal sin? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: To receive communion unworthily is a form of sacrilege. It would be committing another grievous sin in addition to the mortal sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church: To respond to this invitation we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment. St. Paul urges us to examine our conscience: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before coming to Communion (1385).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 27 — September 2, 2017

(MR): In memory of Joe Babin

offered by Wife: Gerry

(NS): In memory of Ann & Steve Guzo

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Cousin: Basil & Eleanor Gramata (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



# McKees Rocks Announcements

**ARCHIEPARCHIAL ALTAR BOYS FAITH & FUN DAY** — This past Thursday, our parish hosted the Faith & Fun Day for all altar servers of the Archeparchy. There were app. 20 altar servers along with several chaperones who took part in this annual event. Following the Divine Liturgy by Archbishop Skurla and clergy, a lunch was served and then travel time to the Carnegie Science Museum for an afternoon of fun. The day was highlighted by attending PNC



Park for the Pirates-Dodgers game. The two servers representing our Holy Ghost Church were Paul & Thomas Rubish who also served at the Divine Liturgy.

**GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED FORTHCOMING — SAVE THE DATE** — The weeds and bushes surrounding our Holy Ghost Church really need attention. We also need cleanup in the school. We can't do it without your cooperation! We surely need your help on **Saturday, September 30, 2017 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. Again, please circle this date on your calendar to assist us! 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.



## Northside Announcements

**GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED FORTHCOMING — 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 23, 2017 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 will also need hands to clean the inside of the Church. Again, please circle this date on your calendar to assist us! 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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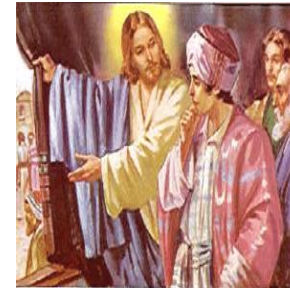
### **Cont. from page 3 — Catholic Perspective (p.3) of Astrology**

against star-worship (Deut. 4:19, 17:3; 2 Kgs. 17:16, 21:3–5, 23:4; Jer. 8:2, 19:12–13; Zeph. 1:4-6). In the New Testament age, astrologers taught that all things were in the grip of Fate, which could assign one destiny to one man and another destiny to another. Fate was extremely powerful and sometimes was even said to rule the gods. However, what destiny Fate would assign to a man could be determined by reading the stars. Today some Christians are influenced by revived paganism in the form of the New Age movement. Some even suggest that Christianity originally held many occult beliefs, such as astrology. But the early Christians, like the early Jews, were vehemently opposed to astrology, even attributing it to demonic origin. The Church Fathers were willing to impose strong sanctions against astrology to protect their flocks. In A.D. 120, the noted mathematician Aquila Ponticus was excommunicated from the Church at Rome for astrological heresies. In the quotes below, Augustine records that such sanctions were still in force in his day, three centuries later, and could result in a person's being excommunicated.

# 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Jesus offers the same challenge today As He offered the Rich Man in today's Gospel (Matthew 19: 16-26)

The great truth of this story lies in the way it illumines the meaning of eternal life. Eternal life is life such as God himself lives. The word for eternal is aionios, which does not mean lasting or ever; it means such as befits God, or such as belongs to God, or such as is characteristic of God. The great characteristic of God is that He so loved and He gave. Therefore, the essence of eternal life is not a carefully calculated keeping of the commandments and the rules and the regulations; **eternal life is based on an attitude of loving and sacrificial generosity to our fellow-men.** If we would find eternal life, if we would find happiness, joy,



satisfaction, peace of mind and serenity of heart, it shall not be by piling up a credit balance with God through keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations; it shall be through reproducing God's attitude of love and care to our fellow-men. To follow Christ and in grace and generosity to serve the men for whom Christ died are one and the same thing. In the end the young man turned away in great distress. He refused the challenge, because he had great possessions. His tragedy was that he loved things more than he loved people; and he loved himself more than he loved others. Any man who puts things before people and self before others, must turn his back on Jesus Christ.

## FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

### Astrology

The following article is part of the Tract Series by Catholic Answers and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridged article briefly teaches us the importance of understanding the what the Catholic Teaching is concerning ASTROLOGY. Space does not permit the entire article so you may locate it on [Catholic.com/tract/astrology](http://Catholic.com/tract/astrology).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to 'unveil' the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone" (CCC 2116). The pagan world was dominated by belief in astrology. Pagans believed that the stars were divinities, or that they were controlled by divinities. Apollo was the god of the sun, his sister Diana was the goddess of the moon, and the known planets were named after gods as well (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn). Because of this common pagan belief, the Old Testament contains repeated injunctions (Cont. page 6)

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 29 ..... Feast of Beheading of St. John the Baptist: (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
September 2-3 ..... 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina.  
September 8 ..... Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.  
September 9 ..... Commencement of a new Slavjane Season at the 4:00 p.m. DL.  
September 10..... Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm  
September 9-10 ..... (MR) Coffee Social commences following the weekend Divine Liturgies.  
September 18 ..... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year  
September 23 ..... NS Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.  
September 30 ..... MR Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

## Holy Day & Saint of the Week

### The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

August 29

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem



at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time when John the Baptist was preaching. This Herod at the time when John the Baptist was preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip, danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though it be half of his kingdom. Being persuaded by her

mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist. Herod gave the order and **John was beheaded in prison and his head brought to him on a platter.** John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evil doers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Passover but its celebration on *August 29 was established because*, on that day, a church which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed. **Divine Liturgies Tuesday, Aug. 29 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m. In the spirit of this feast try to avoid eating from a dish or platter, but use a humble paper plate. The founders and benefactors of our Churches ate from the kitchen pots and pans on this day in St. John's honor! Some did not cut anything that resembled a head (eg. cabbage, lettuce, even a tomato) with a knife!**

## General Announcements

**FUN AT THE PARISH PICNIC** — It was a beautiful day at last Sunday's Parish Picnic. The day was highlighted by a wonderful performance of the Slavjane Folk Ensemble. There was plenty of food and games for the young and the adults for the entire afternoon. We are grateful to those who organized the event: Staff: Elaine Kurtanich, Peggy McCusker, Helene Connor and Susan Fejka, and those who assisted them. God bless all of you for making this day a memorable one.



**83<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL UNIONTOWN PILGRIMAGE** — Labor Day weekend is just about here. This has always been a time to make an Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount Saint Macrina. It is there that we present our petitions before Our Blessed Mother for our needs and supplicate her assistance. We all have needs and/or something to be thankful for. Make the sacrifice and attend the Otpust (Pilgrimage) this year on **Saturday, September 2** and/or **Sunday, September 3**. See the flyer in the narthex of the church!



**INVITATION TO THE PITTSBURGH ZOO** — Plans for a dual Parish Social Event to the Pittsburgh Zoo are being coordinated. Many have not been at the Zoo for years. How things have changed. We are planning the event for **Sunday, September 24, 2017 @ 1:30 p.m.** *The Zoo will give us discounted prices if we have 15 or more.* The price is \$12.00 for ages 2 thru adult. Children under 2 can enter compliments of the Zoo. We will meet at the Zoo. If you are interested, please sign the sheet in MR Side Vestibule; NS Narthex. *The final day for registering is Sunday, Sept. 10.* For additional information contact the Church Office (412) 771-3324.



**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. Please notify the Church Office if there are and 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!