

Parish Offerings – 13th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept. 3, 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 (\$2,418) YP (\$11)	\$2,429.00
Holy Days (\$101)	177.00
Votive Candles	104.50
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	\$2,710.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$630.00
Holy Days	65.00
Utilities (\$25 Improvements (\$50)	75.00
Votive Candles	46.00
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	\$816.00

Church Attendance Last Week – Uniontown Pilgrimage

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (35)
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (55); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (35)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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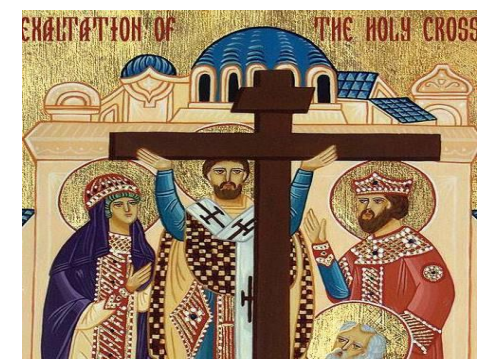
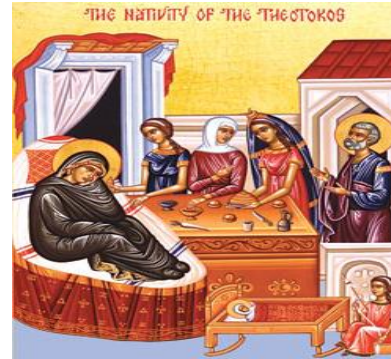
An anonymous donor extends prayerful best wishes to our students and school teachers for God's blessings in the 2017-2018 academic year!

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 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross
Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos
September 10, 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 – 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

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
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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).

September 10, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 37



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By



14th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Sunday Before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN., Sept 10 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Frissora (birthday) Nephew: Dr. Gordon & Kate Frissora
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (6th ann of passing 9/15) Valeriano & Kallop Families

National Patriot Day

Mon, Sept 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank T. Firko (birthday 9/10) Son: Fr. Firko

Final Day of the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Tue, Sept 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Muska (birthday) Ann & Ted Talkowski

Prefestive of the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

Wed, Sept 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Francis E. Eberle (4th ann of passing) + Myrona Duggan

Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence — Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Thrs, Sept 14 * 8:50 a.m. (MR) + Rose Debranski (13th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy
* 5:50 p.m. (NS) + Bishop John M. Bilock (23rd ann of passing 9/8)



* Commences 10 minutes earlier for Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross

Fri, Sept 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) Nuptial Divine Liturgy of Stashkevych & Kacsur
3:30 p.m. (MR) Nuptial Wedding Ceremony of Subdeacon
Vitalii Stashkevych (Holy Ghost) & Mary Elizabeth Kacsur (Holy Ghost)

Saturday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Sat, Sept. 16 *11:00 a.m. (MR) Convalidation Wedding Ceremony of Albert & Christine Barnash

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Robert Kundrat (13th ann of passing 9/18) Mom: Theresa



15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday After the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN., Sept 17 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Nicole Elena Ringes (19th ann of passing) Grandmom: Anna 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: **Sept 10** – NANCY TOMASOVICH; **Sept 11** – Donna Herron, Katherine Leasure, JOHN NEWPORT; **Sept 13** – Adam Leasure, Annamae Smyda; **Sept 14** – Derrick Burns; **Sept 15** – Norma Kacsur, SHIRLEY KALNAS, Maryann Puluka; **Sept 16** – Mark Cifrulak, Robert Cifrulak, MARY FRANCES SPONTAK.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuonas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, Michael Spisak, 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.

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. What is detraction? What are some basic principles to help me examine my conscience with respect to this sin? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** The Baltimore Catechism (Q 1311) defines detraction as "revealing the sins of another without necessity." So the basic questions we need to ask ourselves when a situation arises where we might reveal someone else's sins: What is my motivation for sharing this information? Am I trying to make myself look better or someone else look worse? What good, if any, will come out of sharing this information? Am I taking pleasure in sharing this information? If the "shoe was on the other foot," would I feel someone would be justified in sharing this about me or someone I love?

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

September 10 — September 16, 2017

(MR): In memory of Robert Kundrat

offered by Mom: Theresa

: In memory of Leonard R. Kallop, Sr.

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Mary Onufer Culan, 106**, of McKees Rocks, on Labor Day Monday, September 4, 2017. She was the wife of the late + John, and the mother of Michael (Verna), Paul (late + Alyce), Martha, William, and the late John M. (surviving, Theodora). Funeral arrangements were handled by the McDermott Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. Mary was the eldest member of our Holy Ghost celebrating her most recent birthday in June. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Friday, Sept. 8 at 11:00 a.m. and the interment at St. Mark Cemetery. Our parish

offers it's most sincere condolences to the family, relatives, friends and prayerful solicitude for her immortal soul. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, to your servant, Mary, and remember her forever! *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat!*

BANNS OF MARRIAGE III — This is the third and final announcement of the upcoming marriage of **Subdeacon Vitalii Stashkevych (Holy Ghost Church) and Mary Elizabeth Kacsur (Holy Ghost Church) on Friday, September 15, 2017**. If anyone knows why these individuals cannot contract marriage, please call the rectory office and speak to the pastor.



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**.



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**.



SUNDAY BEFORE THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION OF PRECIOUS CROSS

Gospel meditation: John 3:13-17 teaches that Jesus: Not a Man sent from God, but God come as Man

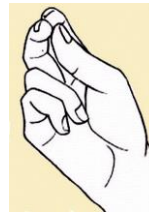
The one aspect about Jesus that impressed the crowds (Mt. 7:28-29) and irritated the Jewish leaders (Mt. 9:13) was that He taught and acted with authority. The basic issue for a Pharisee like Nicodemus was the authority of Jesus. Nicodemus was willing to grant, by virtue of the signs performed by our Lord that Jesus was a man sent from God, but this was not nearly enough. Jesus was God sent as a man. Our Lord's heavenly origin set him apart from every other Israelite, even the great men such as Abraham, Moses and the prophets: "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of man!" (Jn 3:13). This is why Jesus was qualified to speak to Nicodemus of 'heavenly things' (v. 12)—He is the only one come down from heaven. He is the Son of Man. In my opinion, our Lord employed the term 'Son of Man' with reference to Himself with the specific intent of identifying Himself with the Messiah, referred to in Daniel 7:13 as the 'Son of Man'. Neither Nicodemus nor anyone else can give sufficient heed to the words of our Lord Jesus, until they have come to grips with His person. He is God come as man. Once that is settled, men must heed His teaching.



Byzantine Catholics Transmit Ancient Christian Tradition

All Catholics originally made the Sign of the Cross like today's Byzantines

As we begin to celebrate the *Feast of the Elevation of the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord*, it is a good time to re-examine the way in which we bless ourselves. As is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we hold the thumb and first two fingers together signifying our belief in the Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The remaining two fingers are indicative of our belief of who Jesus is: God and man. These two figures are pressed into the palm reminding us that God came to earth and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Thus, when we make the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we begin by touching the forehead with the thumb and two fingers together while saying either "In the Name of the Father or Glory to the Father." Our action continues to move down below the heart (near the naval) signifying that the Son descended to earth to become man, to die and then resurrect from the dead. The movement then is directed to the right shoulder while saying "and to the Son" since He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of the Father. The gesture then goes across to the left shoulder while saying "and to the Holy Spirit. Amen." Historians seem to agree that this is the way Christians began signing themselves around the 8th and 9th centuries. The entire true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the Precious Cross. This action is indicated in the catechesis of **Pope Innocent III (1198-1216)** when delivering the following:



"The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity.... This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the right to the left, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left). Others, however, make the sign of the cross from the left to the right, because from misery (left) we must cross over to glory (right), just as Christ crossed over from death to life, and from Hades to Paradise. [Some priests] do it this way so that they and the people will be signing themselves in the same way. You can easily verify this — picture the priest facing the people for the blessing — when we make the sign of the cross over the people, it is from left to right."

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.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

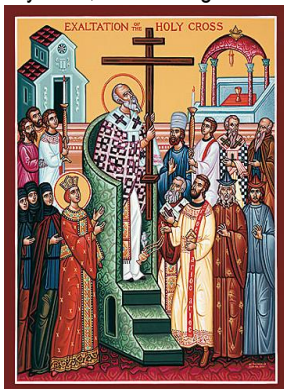
September 10..... Archdiocesan Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm
 September 9-10 (MR) Coffee Social commences following the weekend Divine Liturgies.
 September 17 Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year
 September 23 NS Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
 September 24 Tentative Social Trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo @ 1:30 pm.
 September 30 MR Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
 October 1..... Feast of the Protection of Mother of God – (MR) 9:00 am
 October 2-6 Annual Archdiocesan Clergy Retreat at Antiochian Retreat Center, Ligonier.
 October 15 Freewill Pasta Dinner, St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Solemn Holy Day This Week

Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

September 14

Two events in connection with the Precious Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Holy Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Life-Creating Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land in the 4th century, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Precious Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarios told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zachariah saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.



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**We bow (+) to Your Cross O Lord,
and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection!**

General Announcements

ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS — Today, Archbishop Skurla will be honoring all Byzantine Catholic Wedding Jubilarians marking the special milestones this year at St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA at 3:00 p.m. The Jubilarians, whose names were submitted and included in the celebration were: (MR) Dolores and Ted Babin (65); (MR) Irene and Michael Palahunik (65); (NS) Nancy & William Gogal (60); (MR) Ann and John Singel (50); (MR) Elissa and Dennis Uram (45); (MR) Tina and David Burns (35); (MR) Barbara and Lee



Feldman (35); (MR) Dorothy and Andrew Hrishenko (35); (MR) Anastasia and Timothy Bedard (25); (MR) Kathryn and William Kress (25); (MR) Kathleen and Kurt Marks (25); (MR) Leyte and Michael Tomchak (25); (MR) Susan and Paul Zubritzky (25). Thank you for your faithful witness!! May God grant to our Parishioner-Jubilarians health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON SLAVJANE FOLK ENSEMBLE — At yesterday's Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy, Slavjane participated in petitioning Our Lord for blessings on their new year. May God grant to Dean Poloka, Directors, Instructors and all of Slavjane, peace, health and salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

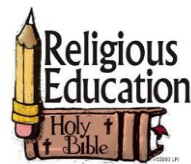


PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO PRAY & SERVE PASTA DINNER — Mark your calendars! The Priests and Deacons in the Pittsburgh Deanery will be again hosting a FREE PASTA DINNER at St. Elias Church, Munhall on **Sunday October 15, 2017**. Day will begin with a Moleben at 3:00 p.m. marking Clergy Appreciation Week followed by the Dinner. 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 1. A freewill offering will be taken for the Priests Pension Plan.

LAST DAY FOR DISCOUNTED TICKETS 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. Today is the final day for registering. For additional information contact the Church Office (412) 771-3324.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES COMMENCE NEXT WEEK — Our Eastern Christian Formation Classes will commence the new year next week. This program ranges from Pre-School through Senior High. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration follows the (MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy next week. This day is known as Catechetical Sunday. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Call Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 897-4650.



Let us remember to respond with generosity in prayer and assistance in aid to the best of our abilities those devastated from the recent natural disasters!