

Parish Offerings – Sunday before Elevation of Cross– Sept. 10, 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 (\$1,600) YP (\$10)	\$1,610.00
Holy Days (\$216) Coffee Social (\$20)	236.00
Votive Candles	104.75
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	\$1,950.75

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$333.55
Holy Days	65.00
Votive Candles	74.75
	<hr/>
	\$472.80

Church Attendance Last Week – Uniontown Pilgrimage

Slavjane Opening Ensemble Year — Sat., 4:00 p.m. (77)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (70); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (44)

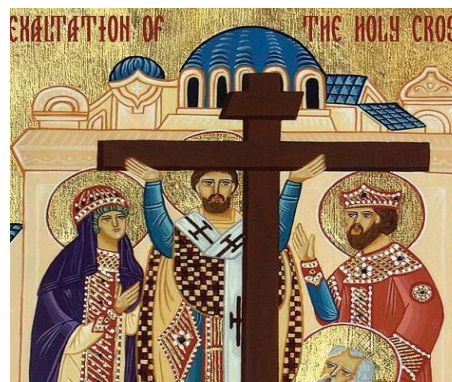
Nativity of the Theotokos, Mon, Sept. 8 — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (20); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (22)

Elevation of the Precious Cross, Wed, Sept. 14 — (MR) *8:50 a.m. (23); (NS) *5:50 p.m. (20)



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

THE 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross
 September 17, 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

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

trust God
 When we trust God,
 the future always
 holds hope.

DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nandce@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski
*Sewing, Alterations, Custom
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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.

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 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 Beliunas (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 17, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 38



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

Mon, Sept 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Anna Marie Demianczyk
for A. Velma Seman

Tue, Sept 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marie E. Jumba (4th ann of passing) Janet Herczak

Wed, Sept 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Yakubik (3rd ann of pass. 9/18) Kathy & Robert Vrabel

Final Day of the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross The Holy Cross is solemnly removed from the tetrapod

Thrs, Sept 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Formosso (birthday 9/15) Husband: Vincent

The First Day of the Autumn Season

Fri, Sept 22  8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kulka + Joyce Ray & Ed Juhasek

Sat, Sept. 23 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Lorinc Nephew: Mike & Deb Kaylor

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy after the 16th Sunday after Pentecost
4:00 p.m. (MR) + John Kundrat (27th ann of passing 9/23) Wife: Theresa

16th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Sept 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Betty J. Mowery Dgr: Barbara
(9th ann of passing 9/16)

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 17** – Christina Michalim, Ethan Singel; **Sept 19** – Dorothy Billy; **Sept 20** – Dolores Babin, LEONARD R. KALLOP, JR., Laura Saber; **Sept 21** – STEPHANIE MULLEN; **Sept 22** – THERESA FITZURKA, Elizabeth Harbist; **Sept 23** – Charles Alman, Kathleen Charochak, Tam Revtai, Cecelia Rose Sclight.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuнас, 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. If I sinned against someone and apologized, do I have to confess it in confession, or is it already forgiven (whether or not that person forgave me)? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Personally repenting to a person we've sinned against is good and important, but that action does not absolve us of our sins. In addition, it depends on whether your sin is venial or mortal. Reception of the Eucharist in a state of grace absolves us from venial sins (CCC 1394). In addition, we need not mention each and every venial sin in confession, but it's helpful to inform a priest about those which are common, because he can offer counsel in combatting them (see CCC 1458). In contrast, mortal sins need to be confessed in kind (type) and number, i.e., specifying the number of times we've committed a particular mortal sin. And, yes, if you are truly repentant, your absolution is not contingent on whether or not the person you've offended forgives you.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

September 17 — September 23, 2017

(MR): **In memory of Gabriel Babin** (14th ann of passing 9/19)
offered by Family

(NS): **In memory of John Kundrat**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Wife: Theresa

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

McKees Rocks Announcements

SLAVJANE REPRESENTED AT LAST WEEKEND'S DIVINE LITURGY — Last Saturday afternoon's Divine Liturgy was attended by the Slavjane Folk Ensemble. It was the beginning



of their new year. The participants wore the dress of the Carpatho-Rusyns in Eastern Europe and participated in the singing of the liturgical responses. Slavjane is the cultural dimension of the Byzantine Catholic Church whose Founders and Benefactors immigrated to America in the 1880's. Following the Divine Liturgy Mirovanije was observed for the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy

Theotokos. Fr. Firko announced that the stipend collected would be a gift to SFE in assistance with promoting this worthy cause. Our parishioners were most gracious donating \$121.00. Slavjane thanks all for the gracious gift.

MAJOR PLUMBING PROJECT AT SCHOOL FINALLY COMPLETED — Following three



contacts with plumbing agencies, *Matt Mertz Plumbing, Inc. of Pittsburgh* was the only one interested in submitting a bid to tackle a major project in our school. As stated in previous S.O.T.'s, during the course of several years of torrential down-pouring of rain storms, our basement would always get flooded, and professional cleanup up had to be contracted, especially when renting out the facility that had children sessions. Summary of the Project included: (1)



The rain water on the Catherine Street Roof side of the gym has now been diverted into the street; (2) A larger pipe was replaced in the school basement to keep the water from backing up through the existing water fountain onto the floor; and (3) a new and workable back-flow valve was replace in the men's room basement to keep sewer water from coming up through the sewer system. The total cost of the project was \$15,985.00. It should be noted that several past professional cleanups were submitted to our insurance company totaling each time nearly \$10,000.00. We pray that this will solve the problem!

GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED FORTHCOMING NEXT WEEK — 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 THIS 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 23, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.**



Who Can Receive Communion?

(The following abridged article appears on the *Catholic Answers Webpage: www.catholic.com/tract/who-can-receive-communion)*



The Holy Eucharist is the most important of the seven sacraments because, in this and in no other sacrament, we receive the very body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Innumerable, precious graces come to us through the reception of Holy Communion. Communion is an intimate encounter with Christ, in which we sacramentally receive Christ into our bodies, that we may be more completely assimilated into His. The Eucharist also strengthens the individual because in it Jesus himself, the Word made flesh, forgives our venial sins and gives us the strength to resist mortal sin. It is also the very channel of eternal life (John 6:53-58).

Because of the gravity of Jesus' teaching on receiving the Eucharist, the Church encourages Catholics to receive frequent Communion, even daily Communion if possible, and mandates reception of the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season. Before going to Communion, however, there are several things one needs to know.

First, you must be in a state of grace (1 Cor. 11:27-28). This is an absolute requirement which can never be dispensed. To receive the Eucharist without sanctifying grace in your soul profanes the Eucharist in the most grievous manner. A mortal sin is any sin whose matter is grave and which has been committed willfully and with knowledge of its seriousness. Grave matter includes, but is not limited to, murder, receiving or participating in an abortion, homosexual acts, having sexual intercourse outside of marriage or in an invalid marriage, and deliberately engaging in impure thoughts (Matt. 5:28-29). Or out of habit and out of fear of what those around them will think if they do not receive Communion, some Catholics, in a state of mortal sin, choose to go forward and offend God rather than stay in the pew while others receive the Eucharist.

Second, you must have been to confession since your last mortal sin. The *Code of Canon Law* indicates that the same requirement applies today. "A person who is conscious of a grave sin is not to receive the body of the Lord without prior sacramental confession unless a grave reason is present and there is no opportunity of confessing; in this case the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible.

Third, you must believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation. Transubstantiation means more than the Real Presence. According to transubstantiation, the bread and wine are actually transformed into the actual body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ, with only the appearances of bread and wine remaining.

Fourth, you must observe the Eucharistic fast. Canon law states, "One who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion". Elderly people, those who are ill, and their caretakers are excused from the Eucharistic fast.

Fifth and *finally*, one must not be under an ecclesiastical censure. Canon law mandates that those who are excommunicated or interdicted after the imposition or declaration of the penalty and others who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion. Provided they are in a state of grace and have met the above requirements, Catholics should receive the Eucharist frequently.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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 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 1-5 Annual Archeparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochian Retreat Center, Ligonier.
October 15 Freewill Pasta Dinner, St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
October 21 Parish Halloween Party at the School Gym following the Divine Liturgy.
October 29 Sunday of Christ the King & Annual Moleben to our 4 saintly bishops.

Saints of the Day

The Holy Martyrs Sophia & Her Children: Faith, Hope and Charity September 17

They all lived and suffered in Rome during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. **Sophia** was wise, as her name implies. She was left a widow, and had



established herself and her daughters well in the Christian Faith. When the persecuting hand of Hadrian extended even over the virtuous home of Sophia, **Faith** was only twelve years old; **Hope**, ten years old; and **Charity**, nine years old. Brought before the emperor, these four held each other's hands "like a woven wreath," humbly but steadfastly confessed their faith in Christ the Lord and refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan idol Artemis. Before their suffering, the mother encouraged her daughters to endure to the end: "Your heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is eternal health, inexpressible beauty and eternal life. When

your bodies are slain by torture, He will clothe you in incorruption and the wounds on your bodies will shine in the heavens as stars." One by one the torturers inflicted cruel torments, first on Faith, then on Hope, and then on Charity. They beat them, slashed them, cast them into fire and boiling pitch, and finally beheaded them with the sword one after another. Sophia took the dead bodies of her daughters outside the town and honorably buried them. She remained at their grave for three days and three nights, praying to God. Then she gave her spirit to God, flying off to Paradise, where the blessed souls of her glorious daughters awaited her.

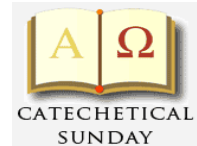
General Announcements

ARCHEPARCHIAL PARISHES TO TAKE SPECIAL COLLECTION — In a letter from Archbishop Skurla dated September 12, 2017: "We are all aware of the terrible devastation, heartbreak, and destruction left behind by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. We pray in thanksgiving with those afflicted by the storms who survived with little or no loss or harm. And we also hold in prayer those who are suffering injury, damage to property, or any other distress caused by this disastrous weather. Our country has responded with great compassion in



offering support and help in many forms to the victims of the hurricanes. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has requested that a special collection be taken to support the extensive aid that is very much needed for so many. **For this, I ask that special collections be taken in all our churches on the weekends of September 16-17 and September 23-24.** All funds collected will be used for the efforts of Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the United States Catholic Church. They and their member agencies will respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care as well as to the long-term needs to rebuild and recover after such widespread destruction. I thank you in advance for continuing unity in prayer and generosity in aid for those who desperately need our help." Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend William C. Skurla. **Procedure for donating: CASH DONATIONS (ON A REGULAR WHITE ENVELOPE) WITH YOUR NAME & ENVELOPE NUMBER MARKED "HURRICANE." INDIVIDUAL CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO HOLY GHOST CHURCH WITH MEMO LINE READING: "HURRICANE."**

FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & COMMISSIONING CATECHETICS — Today commences our 2017-2018 Catechetical Educational Year following the morning Divine Liturgy. All Catechist will be commissioned in a short ceremonial program and receive a blessing to go "forth in peace." Our Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.) Program is vital to the spiritual formation of our youth. Parents, please see that your children are enrolled in this program. Religious Education is important if any young teen-ager (14 and over) is asked to be a sponsor for Baptism and/or Chrismation (Confirmation). If you have any questions, please contact Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 344-6523.



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.



PITTSBURGH ZOO SOCIAL TRIP NEXT SUNDAY — Good News & Bad News: The good news is that our trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo is still a go; however, the bad news is that we could not get 15 individuals to obtain the discounted tickets. You may purchase tickets at the Zoo. Hope to see you there!