

## Parish Offerings – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Nov. 12, 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 (\$1,850) YP (\$12)	\$1,862.00
Holy Days (\$160) YP (\$6)	166.00
Archdiocesan Charities (\$105) Peter's Pence (\$1)	106.00
Votive Candles	166.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,300.50

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$582.00
Holy Days (\$45) Thanksgiving (\$50)	95.00
Improvement (\$20) Collection for the Poor (\$5)	25.00
Special Donation (In mem of + Agnes Knoll by: Son: William Knoll (\$100)	
Peter Longstreth (\$100) M/M Joseph Freund (\$25)	225.00
Votive Candles	43.95
	<hr/>
	\$970.95

### Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (50)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (78); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)



**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*



### DESIGNS BY NANCY

235 McCartney Drive,  
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A Fraternal Benefit Society

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**This space available  
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anniversary greetings,  
get-well wishes, etc.  
Call the office  
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**Please patronize our fabulous  
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the Church. New Sponsors  
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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 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast — November 19, 2017



May God Bless  
Your Thanksgiving  
Holiday for You and  
Your Family!

Happy  
Thanksgiving!



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.

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 Randy Baden (412) 973-1085 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)

November 19, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 47



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By



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

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Nov 19 (5) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



Children

### Prefestive of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple Feast

Mon, Nov 20 (6) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Gramata Bro: Basil & Eleanor Gramata  
(32<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 11/26)

## Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

### Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Tue, Nov 21 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Debranski (11<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy  
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Andrew Latta (birthday) Wife: Arlene & Family

**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, Nov 22 (8) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Martha & Bob Maletz



## Annual Thanksgiving Day

Thrs, Nov 23 (9) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving for all God's Blessings



**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, Nov 24 (10) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marie E. Jumba (birthday) Walter Cioc Family

Sat., Nov 25 (11) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes Knoll (40<sup>th</sup> day of passing 11/23) Son: Bill & Susan

\*\*\*\*\*

### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Joseph F. Pospychala (1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 11/17) Sister: Bunny Zavidny

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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Thanksgiving Weekend

SUN., Nov 26 (12) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Alphonse A. Siglow Dgtr: Kathe & Bill Kress  
(7<sup>th</sup> ann of pass 11/30)

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:** Nov 21 – MARLENE PFEIFFER; Nov 22 – Mikey Tomchak; Nov 23 – Harry Herron.

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, Margaret Belunas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, Alice Sejka, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Julia Wovchko.

**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.

**FAIR OAKS ASSISTED LIVING** (2200 W. Liberty Ave., Pgh, 15226): ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK.

**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): William Zavidny.

**CARING HEIGHTS** (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Beverly Harsh

**MANOR CARE** (1848 Greentree Road., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

**OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL** (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Millie Sotak

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** What are some examples of sins of omission? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Sins of omission are sins that leave undone the good or duties that we are obliged to. They vary in their gravity. For example, if I were to choose not to attend Mass on Sundays or holy days of obligation with full knowledge and deliberate consent, then I would be mortally culpable. If, however, I were to not wash the pile of dishes that my wife can't get around to washing due to my laziness, then I would be venially culpable. **Nevertheless, each of these sins would be sins of omission.** We could also throw in Jesus' list of the corporal works of mercy in Matthew 25:31-46 as a list of some sins of omission. Morality doesn't just consist of avoiding evil but also doing good.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**November 19 — November 25, 2017**

(MR): **In memory of Fr. John Pipik** (49<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 11/18)

offered by Grateful Parishioners

(NS): **In memory of John R. Debranski** (11<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 11/21)

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018



# 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 by Thanksgiving Weekend. 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 **Sunday, December 10**. 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 under-privileged children. We thank Barbara & Peter Stecko for continuing this project.



## PHILIPPIN FAST PIROHI SALES PAUSE THIS WEEKEND — We have commenced our

five week Pirohi Project in preparation for Christmas.

Remaining sales are **December 1, 8 & 15. THERE ARE NO SALES THIS FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING.**

Starting, again next week, orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, and/or by phone on Wednesdays only

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.



## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE — In our love for the less fortunate, we are holding

our annual non-perishable food drive to be delivered to *Focus On Renewal* in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please bring the non-expired items to the Church and place them at the entrance. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092. Once again, we are grateful to her for leading this project.



## CHURCH DECORATING FORTHCOMING — We will begin decorating the

Church for Christmas on Monday, **December 4, 2017 @ 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.



# Northside Announcements

## CHURCH DECORATING FORTHCOMING — We will begin decorating the

Church for Christmas following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, **December 3, 2017**. 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



**SPECIAL THANKSGIVING DAY DIVINE LITURGY—** As we begin to prepare for Thanksgiving Day, it would be appropriate to commence the day by coming to Church and thanking Almighty God for all the blessings we have received from him especially in this past year. **The (MR) Divine Liturgy is scheduled for 9:00 a.m.** The most appropriate and best manner to thank Almighty God is by participating in the Divine Liturgy. Please come and join us!



# Meditation on today's Gospel

*A godly life is more important than material things*

**Luke 12:16-21**

In Luke 12:13-21, a listener in the crowd surrounding Jesus asks Him to instruct his



brother to divide the inheritance due to him equitably. Jesus declines, saying that life should not be based on having many possessions. He uses this occasion to teach His disciples that a godly life is more important than material things. To explain this, He tells a parable about a rich man who builds larger and larger barns to store all his crops and goods. Since he had everything he could possibly want or need, the rich man's focus was on living an easy life. God's response is that the man was foolish because, when he died later that night, his goods would do nothing for him. Someone else would inherit and enjoy them. A person whose life is caught up in what he owns is not rich toward God. The Parable of the Rich Fool illustrates Jesus' teaching to guard against every kind of covetousness.

## Metropolitan Archeparchy's Important Upcoming ASSEMBLY 2018

In the July 2017 issue of the *Byzantine Catholic World*, Archbishop Skurla announced the 2018 Assembly: **CONCERN FOR OUR FUTURE**. This Assembly will be held on May 29 – 31, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA. Six themes were identified for the Assembly: 1) Diversity, 2) Technology and Social Media, 3) Mixed Marriages, 4) Education, 5) Social Activities, and 6) Outreach to members who have left the church.

**PLEASE READ:  
IMPORTANT  
MESSAGE**

To prepare for the Assembly, the Commission was charged to collect information on the above Themes from various sources including the clergy, laity, seminarians, parishioners and others. At the May 2017 Clergy Days, questions for each Theme were presented to the clergy. Working in small groups, rich ideas were generated. **Now we are reaching out to the parishes to ask the same questions.** The responses from Clergy Days (attached) are being shared with the parishes with a request for the priests to share the Clergy Days responses with their parish members, to discuss, identify, and gather additional ideas for each Theme which may have a positive impact on the vitality of our churches. The six Themes and the questions that were presented to the clergy are provided for the discussion groups at the parishes. Upon receiving the responses from the parishes, the Commission will review all the ideas and compile a second list which will be shared with all parishes. Parish communities will use this information to decide which responses will be the best suited for implementation at their parish. At the **2018 Assembly** opportunities will be provided for the participants to share information with one another regarding the best practices that have impacted the growth and vitality of their church. The priests from each parish will send responses from their parish by December 10, 2017 to the Chancery. **PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THIS SURVEY!** Copies are available in the Narthex and Side Vestibule.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

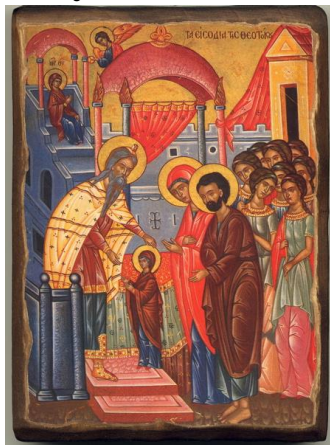
November 21 ..... Solemn HD: Entrance into the Temple of Theotokos (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 November 23 ..... Annual Thanksgiving Day — (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.  
 December 3 ..... (MR) Parish & Archeparchial St. Nicholas Celebration.  
 ..... Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.  
 December 4 ..... 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.  
 December 10 ..... Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.  
 December 16 ..... Installation of new St. Aquilina Ministry at Divine Liturgy.  
 ..... Slavjane Christmas Party following the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy.  
 December 17 ..... Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.  
 ..... Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 3:00 p.m.  
 December 22 ..... (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.  
 December 23 ..... Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 4:00 p.m.  
 December 24 ..... Regular Sunday Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 11:00 a.m.

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 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.  
 December 27 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Christmas — Feast of St. Stephen DL — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
 December 29 ..... Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Golden Corral @ 6:00 p.m.  
 December 30 ..... Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 4:00 p.m.  
 December 31 ..... 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.

## Solemn Holy Day of the Week — Nov. 21 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

The origin of the feast is found in an account in the apocryphal Protoevangelium of Saint James.



According to this document, after Saint Anne's miraculous birth-giving, the Most Holy Virgin having completed her second year, Joachim said to his wife: "Let us lead her to the Lord's Temple, as we promised Him." Ann said: "Let us yet wait until her third year, so that the child will not clamor for her father or mother, thus she will not walk straight before the Lord." When the child was three years old, Joachim said: "Let us call from among the daughters of the Hebrews those who are undefiled, and let them each take a lamp and let these lamps be lit, that the child not turn to look backward and her heart be not held captive outside the Lord's Temple." They did thusly. Zachary the priest received her and said to her: "May the Lord crown your name with glory!", and he set her down on the altar step. There, Mary was nourished by an angel until she was twelve years old. When the time came for her to marry, Joseph received her from the priests' hands, and took her from the Lord's Temple.

Whatever the foundations of this gracious legend may be, the

Church invites us above all to meditate on the mystery of the internal preparation of Mary for her vocation as Theotokos. This preparation is a total self-commitment, in the "immaculate victim," "as a most holy vessel" which must receive the body of the Word incarnate, "a living temple and throne of the King, elected to be his Mother," "the spiritual ark enclosing the incomprehensible Word." The miracle of her subsistence by the hand of the Archangel is the symbol of her spiritual life entirely nourished by the will of God. **Come and pray with us at the Divine Liturgy. See the liturgical schedule for times.**

## General Announcements

### 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK: SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS —



We began our first full week in our journey through the **PHILIPPIAN FAST** this past Nov. 15. It is called the Philipian Fast (Filipovka in Church Slavonic) since it begins the day after the Apostle Phillip's Feast Nov. 14). It is comparable to the Western Rite's Advent Season. The Byzantine Catholic Church does not use the Latin Language to describe this penitential season (eg. Advent), since its traditional language is based on the Greek. This minor penitential period directs us to prepare ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. May we allow Him to be reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. Through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings of mercy, frequent

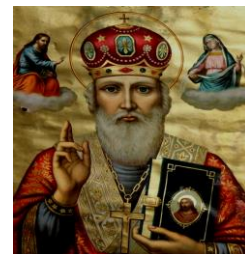
confession of sins, and additional attendances at the Divine Liturgies we can accomplish this end. *Together as a parish, let us collectively continue to practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (required) for the intention for the return of our beloved back to the fullness of the Faith.*

### GCU LODGE 390 FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING NEXT

**WEEK** — Lodge members are reminded of the 4th quarterly meeting next Sunday, **November 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.** in the MR church basement. Members are urged to attend this important meeting since there will be the election of new officers.



### ARCHIEPARICHAL ST. NICHOLAS 50/50 RAFFLE —



Since many will not be able to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Nicholas Celebration at the Cathedral and Cathedral Center on **Sunday, December 3, 2017**, a minimal amount of tickets from GCU Headquarters have been sent to each parish in order to acquire additional capital for the Seminary. Very little profit is made from the dinner tickets themselves. To help subsidize this charity event, please support this worthy cause by purchasing a ticket. They are \$10.00 and the number based on the Sunday, **December 10, 2017 PA Daily Drawing at 7:00 p.m.** Many prizes will be awarded.

### 2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX —

Your 2018 Contribution Envelopes and Church Calendars are ready for distribution today. **Please look for your name and not your current number.** If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office. **Please do not use your 2018 until January!**



**ADDITIONAL DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS GOING FAST FOR 2018** — Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend (per candle/DL) in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and how you wish it to appear in the S.O.T. Place it in the collection basket. If your requested



date has already been reserved by someone else, you will be giving another date closest to you request! ***There is no limit as to the number you may reserve.*** Thanks to all who are participating in this spiritual program! These are two great ways to remember your beloved departed!