

Parish Offerings – Sunday of 1st Nicean Council— May 28, 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 (\$1,838) YP (\$10)	\$1,843.00
Holy Days (\$678) Easter (\$20) Easter Décor (\$20)	718.00
Seminary (\$5) Eastern European Churches (\$20)	25.00
Votive Candles	108.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,694.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$465.00
Holy Days (\$65) Easter (\$25)	90.00
Utilities	30.00
Votive Candles	46.93
	<hr/>
	\$631.93

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (43)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (75); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (45)

Memorial Day Patriotic Divine Liturgy — Mon, May 29 (MR) 8:00 a.m. (10)

Never stop trying.



The smile on my face
doesn't mean my life is
perfect.

It means I appreciate
what I have and what I
have been blessed with.

I choose to be happy

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412)
331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

May God
Shine Down
His Blessings
On You
Today!

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

Nancy C. Debranski
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Please patronize our fabulous
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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!



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

**Individuals may
sponsor an ad or
greeting for a
weekly or monthly
price. Call the office
for rates!**

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

THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast Day — Rusalja

June 4, 2017



Message from Holy Spirit

I love you ~ I am your greatest encourager
I believe in you when you don't believe in yourself
I pray for you when you haven't clue how to pray
I have a plan for you, that will amaze you!
When you think you have failed
I have already begun to turn your seeming
failure into something good ...
I will give you growth and maturity
that you cannot even imagine today
I will keep you from harm~ I will order your steps
I will give courage ..
I will speak for you, in you, with you and through
you with words you didn't even know you had~
I am your most passionate Cheerleader
and your best Coach.
With Me beside you~ you cannot fail
Remember ~ I Love you

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

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 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

Behold, we celebrate today the Feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of the promise and the realization of hope. How wonderful and awesome is this great mystery! Therefore, O Lord and Creator of all, we cry out: Glory to You! (Great Vespers of Pentecost)

June 4, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 23



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost Sunday – Patronal Feast – MIROVANJE

Traditional Kneeling Prayers are introduced prior to the Final Blessing

SUN., Jun 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Lillian + Joseph Buchko Children & Grand-Children
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

PENTECOST MONDAY - FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY – SIMPLE HOLY DAY

Procession to the four corners of the Church proclaiming the Gospel

Traditional NO FASTING/ABSTINENCE this week in the Joy of the coming of the Holy Spirit

Mon, Jun 5 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) Health & Welfare of Fr. Firko Anonymous

Tue, Jun 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia Eisenman Dgr: Martha & Bob Maletz

Wed, Jun 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alexander F. Perschy (birthday 6/6) Son: Kurt

Thrs., Jun 8 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dan Sivak Lydia & Charles Sell

Fri, Jun 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich + Peggy Krulac

Sat, Jun 10 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Amelia + Frank T. Firko (Wed. Ann) Son: Fr. Firko

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of All Saints – First Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

1st Sunday after Pentecost



SUN., Jun 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Lori R. Kacsur Kacsur-Herron Families
(3rd ann of passing)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Warhola Tina Soley

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: Jun 4 – Otce Duchovnyj, Katherine Harbist; Jun 5 – Christine Barnash, Pauline Gaydas, Betty Spisak; Jun 7 – Peter Kacsur; Jun 10 – Cynthia Saber.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Gregory Fejka, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, 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): MICHAEL BARBUSH, Irene Bednar.

CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.

VALENCIA WOODS OF ST. BARNABAS (85 Charity Place, 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 Belunas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Mark states that blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin. Is this held true in the Catholic Faith? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: First we must define what is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The Catechism states: "Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven." There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss (CCC 1864). Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is to refuse God's mercy. It is a refusal to repent of sin. God does not bring anyone into his kingdom against his/her will. Human persons have the ability to reject God's mercy and refuse forgiveness of sins which leads to eternal separation from God.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

June 4 — June 10, 2017

(MR): In memory of Margaret Kurtanich (13th ann of passing 6/12)

offered by Children

(NS): In memory of Betty & Jay Mowery

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Dgr: Barbara "Babs" Mowery (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

McKees Rocks Announcements

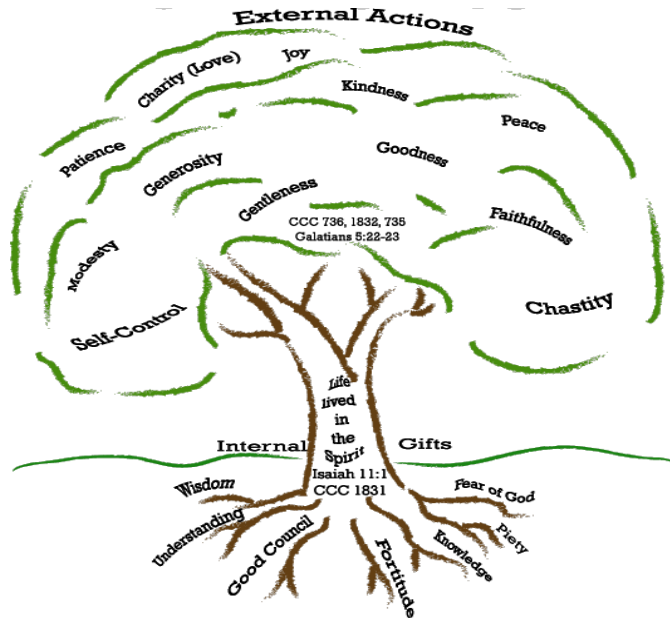
PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — A PAC Meeting has been changed to **Monday, June 12, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.** All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance in the parish office. Please mark your calendar.

MESSAGE FROM OUR BYZAN-TEEN COORDINATOR — A note from Maria Iyengar: "The Youth Group would like to thank everyone who purchased candy from our candy sale. \$80 worth of candy bars were sold. We would also like to thank the GCU Lodge 390 for helping us with this matching funds event.

Holy Ghost, Northside

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — A PAC Meeting has been changed to **Tuesday, June 13, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.** All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance in the parish rectory. Please mark your calendar.

The Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit From the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)



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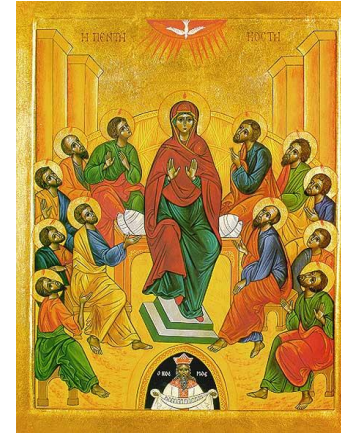
**Don't Forget to Wear GREEN Again Next Weekend
for All Saints Sunday!**

**The 3-Bar Glorified Cross Is turned back
to the Crucifixion Cross on the Feast of Pentecost.
Happy Patronal Feast Day to all!!!**

PENTECOST SUNDAY — RUSALJA

Old & New Law Explanation of the Pentecost Celebration

In the Old Testament, Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. In the new covenant of the Messiah, the New Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ.



The Divine Liturgy of Pentecost recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the Psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the Divine Liturgy. The Epistle and Gospel proclamation tells of the Spirit's coming to men. The Kondakion sings of the reversal of the Tower of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The Troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God's net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns "O Heavenly King" and "We have seen the True Light" are sung for the first time prior to Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to "come and dwell in us", and proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit." The church is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God's Divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the "Life-Creating Spirit." In Hebrew the word for Spirit, breath and wind is the same word, ruah. The figure below the icon is called The Cosmos who represents the world holding the good news that the Holy Apostles who were mandated to spread to all inhabitants of the earth.

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

The first day of the Pentecost Postfestive commemorates the unity of the Holy Trinity's role in our salvation. God the **FATHER** sent His Only-Begotten Son to save mankind; God the **SON** redeemed mankind by His death upon the Cross and rose from the dead; and God the **HOLY SPIRIT** sanctifies mankind pouring out His Gifts and Fruits upon all who approach Him in faith, reverence and devotion. Let us pause by participating in the Divine Liturgy rendering humble and heart-felt thanks for all that the Triune God has done and continues to do for us leading us to salvation!



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4 Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast.
 Patronal Dinner Celebration & Honoring all our Parish Graduates @ 1:00 pm
 June 10 Slavjane 41st Anniversary Concert @ 6:00 p.m. (cf. article).
 June 11 Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling the Easter Duty Precept.
 A special G.C.U. Lodge 390 Quarterly Meeting @ (MR) 2:00 p.m.
 June 12 MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
 Beginning of the minor Petrine Fast (Petrovka) through June 28th.
 June 13 NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
 June 14 GCU Lodge 390 Flag Day Ceremony @ 7:00 p.m.
 June 18 Annual Father's Day.
 June 23 Vigil Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 June 24 Solemn Holy Day: Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 June 28 **Holy Day of Obligation:** Vigil Feast of SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 7:00 p.m.
 June 29 **Holy Day of Obligation:** Feast SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week — May 29

The Bishop-Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra



The Holy Martyr Theodotus lived in Ancyra of Galatia in the third century. He was distinguished by his kindness and concern. At the height of the persecution under Diocletian (284-305) he provided Christians with everything they needed, and gave them shelter in his home. There they secretly celebrated church services. Saint Theodotus visited the Christian captives in prison, paid their bail, and reverently buried the bodies of martyrs who had been thrown to the wild beasts. Once he buried the bodies of seven holy

women martyrs, who were drowned in the sea (May 18). They reported this to the governor. After refusing to offer sacrifice to idols, and denouncing the folly of paganism, Saint Theodotus confessed Christ as God, for which they subjected him to terrible tortures and beheaded him with a sword. They wanted to burn the holy martyr's body, but could not do so because of a storm which had arisen, so they gave his holy relics to a certain Christian for burial.

General Announcements

THE GREEN HOLY DAYS AND KNEELING PRAYERS — The Holy Feast of Pentecost was popularly called **RUSALJA** by the Ruthenian (Rusyn) people who were the founders and benefactors of our parish. Prior to the missionary efforts of Saints Cyril & Methodius (9th century), the pagan Slavs embraced Rusalja (the god of new spring and budding nature) and held a festival during this time of the year. Decoration from various greens, and **LINDEN** (lipa) branches were predominantly used. Following their conversion to Christianity, the Church retain the idea of green decorations in Church and at the door entrance of their homes, seeing and celebrating in them the symbol of **NEW LIFE** that the Holy Spirit brought forth on Pentecost Sunday. The week of Pentecost was also referred to as the **GREEN HOLY DAYS** (Zeleni Svjata). *Let us glorify the Holy Spirit, Who brings LIGHT & LIFE, by wearing something GREEN throughout the week, and also at next weekend's Divine Liturgy of All Saints!*



PATRONAL FEAST PENTECOST DINNER — This afternoon's Parish Feast Day Dinner will commence at 1:00 p.m. We will also acknowledge our College Graduate. Cooked Goose Catering of Imperial has been hired to bring the food. **The menu will be: Stuffed Pork Chop Entree, Redskin Potatoes, Mixed Vegetable and Salad.** May God's blessing be upon us as we glorify Him this special day! . **This special celebration also marks the 100th anniversary of our MR Church Building; and the 115th anniversary of the founding of our NS Holy Ghost Church and 110th anniversary of the founding of our MR Holy Ghost Church.**



OUR (MR) HOLY GHOST GRADUATE AND HER PLANS — Our Holy Ghost Graduate for 2017 is: **COLLEGE — STEPHANIE HERRON**, Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC), Pittsburgh, PA who receives an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education, and seeks immediate employment in an area pre-school. She then plans to return to further her education for an advancement degree specializing in *teaching K-4th Grade*. May God grant to Stephanie health and happiness for many blessed years!



LAST WEEK TO FULFILL EASTER DUTY — All Christian Faithful are **OBLIGED** to receive the Divine Eucharist during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). This is traditionally known as the **EASTER DUTY**. **This is a serious obligation!** Voluntary neglect of this Church precept is a serious (mortal) sin. Not only does it prohibit one from receiving the Eucharist, but also makes one ineligible to stand as Godparent/Sponsor at Baptism & Chrismation. Please take care of this responsibility with Confession & Communion no later than **next Sunday's June 11th deadline!**



SLAVJANE 41ST ANNUAL CONCERT TICKETS — The *Slavjane Folk Ensemble* will be celebrating their annual Dinner-Theater at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, PA on **this Saturday, June 10, 2017. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. & Concert @ 6:00 p.m.** The Reception will then follow in the Church Hall. Donation is Adult - \$5.00; Students under 16 – No Charge. The Reception Music will be by Okrestar Zabava. Contact Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351. If you have never attended a Slavjane Performance, this is the one of the greatest! Tickets are now available at this fantastic price, get yours today! Let's support Slavjane!!

