

Parish Offerings – August 28, 2016

“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 (\$1,735.50) YP (\$15)	\$1,750.50
Holy Days	87.00
Votive Candles	136.44
	<hr/>
	\$1,973.94

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$480.00
Holy Days	50.00
Utilities (\$70) Improvements (\$60)	130.00
Votive Candles	38.50
	<hr/>
	\$698.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., (MR) 4:00 p.m. (42)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (87); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

Beheading of St. John the Baptist, Mon, Aug. 29 — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (12); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (11)

Here's to all the moms out there. Because when it comes to labor, they're the experts.

Happy Labor Day!



Valerian F. Szal
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McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

Happy Labor Day!



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225 OLIVIA STREET
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McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Labor Day Pilgrimage — September 4, 2016



2015-2016 Extra-Ordinary Jubilee – THE YEAR OF MERCY

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: (412) 331-5155; NS Social Center (412) 231-9366

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 Beluinas (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 4, 2016

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VI, Number 36



Date

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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Time

Intention

Requested By

16th Sunday after Pentecost

82nd Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage — Labor Weekend

SUN., Sept 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Donna Roznowski (2nd ann of passing 9/5) + Elizabeth Mross
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Annual Labor Day Prefestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Mon, Sept 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George W. Hornak Sister: Helena Barth & Family
(1st ann of passing)

Tue, Sept 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Jennie Timulak Tam & Frank Revtai
(3rd ann of passing 9/5)



Prefestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Wed, Sept 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna J. Kinzler Dgtr: Susan Kushner
(2nd ann of passing 9/5)



Nativity of the Holy Theotokos

Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Thrs, Sept 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Barbara Fetzer (birthday 9/13) Dgtr: Tam & Frank Revtai

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** (your choice) in remembrance of
Our Lord's Crucifixion and Death upon the Precious Cross

Fri, Sept 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Frissora (birthday 9/10) Jack W. Blackhurst

Saturday of the Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos & Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Sat, Sept 10 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Frank T. Firko, Jr. (birthday 9/10) Son: Fr. Firko

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos &
Sunday Before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

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

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos &
Sunday Before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN., Sept 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Francis E. Eberle (3rd ann of passing 9/13) M/M Frank J. Lipchick
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (5th ann of passing 9/15) Valeriano & Kallop Families



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 date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Birthdays: **Sept 4** – Lynn Kacsur, Elizabeth Petruna; **Sept 5** – Debra Charochak; **Sept 6** – Irene Palahunik; **Sept 7** – Leslie Kuzma, George Rosko, ANNA TOTH; **Sept 8** – AMBERLY VALERIANO; **Sept 10** – NANCY TOMASOVICH.

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

HOME: Margaret Beluinas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Debra Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, GERARD SLAGLE, ANNA TOTH, JOHN VEREB, Claudia Verner, Julia Wovchko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Susan Dragosh, Doris Naughton, Linda Reiger.

MASONIC VILLAGE (1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Preganz.

THE ARBORS III AT ST. BARNABAS (6005 Valencia Rd, Apt. 7, Gibsonia, PA 15044): Eleanor Kapko.

MARIAN MANOR (2695 Winchester Dr., Pgh, 15220): MICHAEL BARBUSH, Irene Bednar.
CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. It was once stated that when a person commits mortal sin he implicitly rejects God and the entire life of holiness he had led up to that point, including the reward he would have gotten for his good deeds. When he repents and comes back to God through the sacrament of confession, does this mean he will have to start from zero in gaining new rewards? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** No. The common teaching of Catholic theologians is that there is a "revival of merit" when a person comes back to God. When a person comes back to God, he implicitly reaffirms the prior life of holiness he had led, so his rewards for that life are restored. In *Infinita Dei Misericordia* (1924), Pope Pius XI taught that penitents have "the fullness of the merits and the gifts which they lost through sin . . . restored and given back."

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

September 4 — September 10, 2016

(MR): In memory of Stush, Stanley, Jr, Olga & Mary Francis Sulkowski
offered by + Geraldine & Andy Nazak

(NS): **Health & Welfare of Diane Wittmer & Linda Little**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2016 offered by Aunt: Joan Senchysyn (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2016



McKees Rocks Announcements

SAWING LOGS AND TRIMMING TREES — This past week the large dead tree was removed and the trunk grounded out on Olivia St. The Olander Tree Service was hired for this project, and to trim the trees between the rectory and the Funeral Home parking lot. The whole area looks refreshed and clean. It took approximately 6 hours to complete the project at a cost of \$950.00. A special thank you is extended to parishioners, Julia and her brother, George Mosko who cemented the openings between the bricks at the outside office building. This temporary fix will hold for now, but will have to be addressed in the future.



UZHOROD SEMINARIANS TO SING SLAVONIC DIVINE LITURGY — A flyer appears in today edition of the S.O.T. concerning the upcoming visitation of the Seminarians of the Mukachevo Eparchy who will be leading the singing of a Church Slavonic Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Our parish will welcome them at the School for coffee and doughnuts. **A freewill offering will be taken at the Church. Anyone donating \$100.00 or more will be given a complimentary CD recording of their favorite hymns as a thank you.** Please mark your calendars so that we may provide a nice attendance and reception for them. Please mark your calendars so that we may provide a nice attendance and reception for them.

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, October 8, 2016 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!!!



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, October 15, 2016 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.



HOLY DOOR PILGRIMAGE VISITATION IN STEUBENVILLE — Last Sunday our pastor led a small number of parishioners from both HGCs to Christ the King Chapel on the grounds Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH. The Roman Rite Diocese has designated this site as a special Jubilee location during this Year of Mercy. Pictured are (L-R): Velma Seman (NS), Retired pastor, Monsignor Peter Tay (NS), John Senchyshyn (NS), and Patricia Porter (MR). Fr. Firko, once again, served as the photographer. It is at this pilgrimage site that the special prayers were offered for the intention of the Holy Father following the walk through the Holy Doors.



CHURCH'S TEACHING ON BIRTH CONTROL

(Many Individuals in and outside the Catholic Church continue to have a lack of understanding as to the teaching of Birth Control in the 21st Century. The following abridged article currently appears on the Apologetical website of Catholic Answers: www.catholic.com. It is being reprinted to give a basic understanding and appreciation of God's saving gift and plan in the aspect of human sexuality.)

In 1968, Pope Paul VI issued his landmark encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae* (Latin, "Human Life"), which reemphasized the Church's constant teaching that it is always intrinsically wrong to use contraception to prevent new human beings from coming into existence. Contraception is "any action which, either in anticipation of the conjugal act [sexual intercourse], or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible" (*Humanae Vitae* 14). This includes

*Our Prayer
and Passion*
That all human life, from
conception to natural death,
be valued by society and
protected by law.

sterilization, condoms and other barrier methods, spermicides, coitus interruptus (withdrawal method), the Pill, and all other such methods. **Few realize that up until 1930, all Protestant denominations agreed with the Catholic Church's teaching condemning contraception as sinful.** At its 1930 Lambeth Conference, the Anglican church, swayed by growing social pressure, announced that contraception would be allowed in some circumstances. Soon the Anglican church completely caved in, allowing contraception across the board. Since then, all other Protestant denominations have followed suit. Today, the Catholic Church alone proclaims the historic Christian position on contraception. Evidence that contraception is in conflict with God's laws comes from a variety of sources that will be examined in this tract. **Nature: Contraception is wrong because it's a deliberate violation of the design God built into the human race, often referred to as "natural law."** The natural law purpose of sex is procreation. The pleasure that sexual intercourse provides is an additional blessing from God, intended to offer the possibility of new life while strengthening the bond of intimacy, respect, and love between husband and wife. The loving environment this bond creates is the perfect setting for nurturing children. But sexual pleasure within marriage becomes unnatural, and even harmful to the spouses, when it is used in a way that deliberately excludes the basic purpose of sex, which is procreation. God's gift of the sex act, along with its pleasure and intimacy, must not be abused by deliberately frustrating its natural end—procreation. **Scripture:** Is contraception a modern invention? Hardly! Birth control has been around for millennia. Scrolls found in Egypt, dating to 1900 B.C., describe ancient methods of birth control that were later practiced in the Roman empire during the apostolic age....The Bible mentions at least one form of contraception specifically and condemns it. *Coitus interruptus*, was used by Onan to avoid fulfilling his duty according to the ancient Jewish law of fathering children for one's dead brother (Gen. 38:8–10). The biblical penalty for not giving your brother's widow children was public humiliation, not death (Deut. 25:7–10). But Onan received death as punishment for his crime. This means his crime was more than simply not fulfilling the duty of a brother-in-law. He lost his life because he violated natural law, as Jewish and Christian commentators have always understood. For this reason, certain forms of contraception have historically been known as "Onanism," after the man who practiced it, just as homosexuality has historically been known as "Sodomy," after the men of Sodom, who practiced that vice (cf. Gen. 19). *Contraception was so far outside the biblical mindset and so obviously wrong that it did not need the frequent condemnations other sins did. Scripture condemns the practice when it mentions it. Once a moral principle has been established in the Bible, every possible application of it need not be mentioned.* **Apostolic Tradition:** The biblical teaching that birth control is wrong is found even more explicitly among the Church Fathers, who recognized the biblical and natural law principles underlying the condemnation. **Wishful Thinking:** Ignoring the mountain of evidence, some maintain that the Church considers the use of contraception a matter for each married couple to decide according to their "individual conscience." Yet, nothing could be further from the truth. The Church has always maintained the historic Christian teaching that deliberate acts of contraception are always gravely sinful, which means that it is mortally sinful if done with full knowledge and deliberate consent (CCC 1857). This teaching cannot be changed and has been taught by the Church infallibly. There is no way to deny the fact that the Church has always and everywhere condemned artificial contraception. The matter has already been infallibly decided. The so-called "individual conscience" argument amounts to "individual disobedience."

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 3-4 82nd Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina.
 September 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.
 September 11. Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians at St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm
 September 10-11 (MR) Coffee Social commences following the weekend Divine Liturgies.
 September 17 Commencement of a new Slavjane Season following the 4:00 p.m. DL.
 September 18 Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year.
 Rusyn Seminarians from the Eparchy of Mukachevo will sing a Slavonic Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.
 September 30 ... Vigil Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos – (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
 October 1..... Feast of the Protection of Mother of God – (MR) 9:00 am
 October 2-6 Annual Archieparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochean Retreat Center, Ligonier.
 October 8 MR Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
 October 9 Freewill Pasta Dinner, St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
 October 15 NS Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Holy Day This Week

Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

September 8

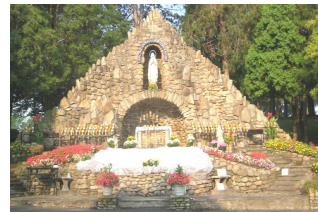


The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anne. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anne. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

Come Let Us Honor Her at the Divine Liturgy!!! Check the liturgical schedule! – Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us!!!!

General Announcements

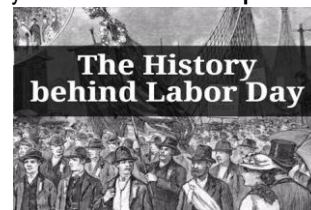
82nd ANNUAL UNIONTOWN PILGRIMAGE — Labor Day weekend is just about here. This



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 something to be thankful for. *You will also have the opportunity of receiving the Jubilee Indulgence Blessing walking through the*

designated doors of Mercy. Make the sacrifice and attend the Otpust (Pilgrimage) this afternoon **Sunday, September 4th**. The main Divine Liturgy is at 4:00 p.m.

A SHORT HISTORY OF LABOR DAY — The first Labor Day was celebrated on **September 5, 1882**, in New York City, when 10,000 workers marched from city hall to Union Square. Those who participated took a day off without pay and voiced their demands. In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the official holiday, and the Central Labor Union, who organized the first Labor Day, encouraged organizations in other cities to celebrate the workingman's holiday on that specific date. The concept spread throughout the country and was celebrated in most major industrial cities. The first state law recognizing Labor Day was passed by Oregon in 1887. That same year, four more states, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, recognized Labor Day. **By 1894**, a total of 28 states have adopted the holiday, and in June Congress passed a federal act, making the first Monday in September a legal holiday. *President Grover Cleveland signed the bill* right after sending troops to quell a strike against the Pullman railroad company. Have a Happy and Safe Labor Day!



NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES — Our *Eastern*



Christian Formation Classes will be commencing enrollment for two weeks. This program ranges from Pre-School through Senior High. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration follows all Divine Liturgies today and next week. Catechetical Sunday and the First Day of Classes is slated in the MR Parish on **Sunday, September 18, 2016** following the 9:00 a.m. (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your

children in this important program! Call Steve Puluka (412) 897-4650.

SLAVJANE COMMENCING NEW SEASON FORTHCOMING — Slavjane will be attending the Divine Liturgy on **Saturday, September 17, 2016** at the 4:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy in order to implore God for the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit as they began their new year. This very talented Rusyn Ensemble has been a part of the Pittsburgh Archeparchy with its home at (MR) Holy Ghost Church for several years. It continues to keep alive this cultural dynamic from the Old Country where the founders of our Byzantine-Rusyn (Ruthenian) Catholic Churches had its genesis. We offer special prayers that its legacy will continue and that the joy they manifest through song, instrumental expression and dance may give glory to God, and sustain our cherished heritage. Students wishing to join Slavjane may contact Dean Poloka at (412) 877-9351 for membership requirements and complete a membership form.

