

Parish Offerings – Labor Weekend – Sept. 4, 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 (\$2,345.90) YP (\$11)	\$2,326.90
Holy Days	220.00
Votive Candles	103.00
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	\$2,649.90

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$527.00
Holy Days	110.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvements (\$115)	125.00
Votive Candles	38.00
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	\$800.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Labor Weekend — Sat., (MR) 4:00 p.m. (46)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (53); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)

Nativity of the Theotokos, Mon, Sept. 8 — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (17); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (12)



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Michael P. Ferrell,

Supervisor, CFSP

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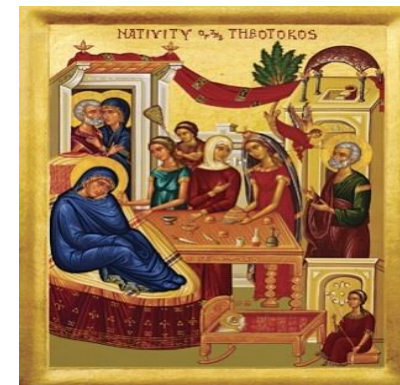
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross— September 11, 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 11, 2016

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VI, Number 37

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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Time

Intention

Requested By

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

Final Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Mon, Sept 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Kritz Dgtr: Carol & John Schaner
(1st ann of passing 9/11)

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

Tue, Sept 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Francis E. Eberle Nancy & Michael Ferrell
(3rd ann of passing)

Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence — Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Wed, Sept 14 * 8:50 a.m. (MR) + Rose Debranski (12th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy
* 5:50 p.m. (NS) + Bishop John M. Bilock (22nd ann of passing 9/8)

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

Thrs, Sept 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention for Derrick Burns Parents: Tina & David Burns

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 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Bilak Audrey & George Cveykus

Saturday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Sat, Sept 17 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Sr. Vladimir Chabala, OSBM Basilian Sisters
(40th day of passing 9/12)



Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Robert Kundrat (12th ann of passing 9/18) Mom: Theresa

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN., Sept 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Betty J. Mowery (8th ann of passing 9/16) Husband: + Jay & Family



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 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 – Robert Cifrulak, Mark Cifrulak; Sept 17 – Christina Michalim, Ethan Singel.

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

HOME: Margaret Beluinas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, 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.

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.

OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Andrew Drukalsky.

ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): Elsie Eberle.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Does the Bible teach reincarnation? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: No. Scripture teaches that "it is appointed that men die once, and after this comes judgment" (Heb 9:27). There is absolutely no biblical evidence for reincarnation. Sometimes people try to find biblical warrant for reincarnation in Christ's words about John the Baptist. In Matthew 17:12 Christ says, "I tell you Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him." Matthew adds, "Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist" (Mt 17:13). Is Jesus saying that John was the reincarnation of Elijah? No. Here's the simple reason. According to 2 Kings 2:9-18, Elijah was taken up bodily into heaven without seeing death. Thus, he wasn't a candidate for reincarnation because he was still in his original incarnation. A person who is considering reincarnation is faced with a choice of believing other alleged sources of religious truth or believing the biblical witness. To accept the former in this instance is to reject the latter.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

September 11 — September 17, 2016

(MR): In memory of Rose A. Debranski

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS): In memory of Leonard R. Kallop, Sr.

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2016

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2016



McKees Rocks Announcements

PARISHIONERS HAVE MARRIAGE CONVALIDATED — It is with great joy that Loretta (Poznak) Keller and Russell Keller had their marriage convalidated with a nuptial Wedding Ceremony and Divine Liturgy on Friday, August 26, 2016 here at our Holy Ghost Church. We offer them our most sincere congratulation and prayerful best wishes in their new covenant relationship with one another. May God grant them many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



UZHOROD SEMINARIANS TO SING SLAVONIC DIVINE LITURGY — Seminarians of the Mukachevo Eparchy of Eastern Europe 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 following the Divine Liturgy. **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.

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.



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**

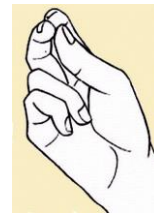
The one aspect about Jesus that impressed the crowds (Mt. 7:28-29) and irritated the Jewish leaders (Mt. 9:1-23) was that He taught and acted with authority. The basic issue for a Pharisee like Nicodemus was the authority of Jesus. Nicodemus was willing to grant, by virtue of the signs performed by our 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 slated 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

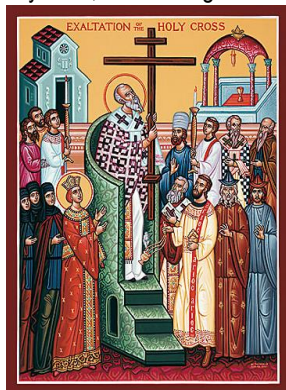
September 11. Archeparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians at St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm
 September 10-11 (MR) Coffee Social commences following the weekend Divine Liturgies.
 September 17 Commencement of a new Slavjane Season following the 4:00 p.m. DL.
 September 18 Catechetical Sunday & 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 Archeparchial 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 – 5:00 p.m.
 October 15 NS Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

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.

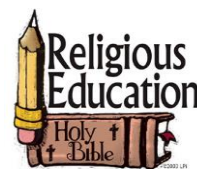
**We bow (+) to Your Cross O Lord,
and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection!**

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) Norma and Peter Kacsur (60); (MR) Christine and Wallace Michalisk (50); (MR) Margaret and Nicholas Nazak (25); (MR) Kimberly and Raymond Zoldos (25).** May God grant to our Parishioner-Jubilarians health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



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 attend the Pizza Party following the Divine Liturgy, and/or contact Dean Poloka at (412) 877-9351 for membership requirements and complete a membership form.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: COME & SEE WEEKEND — Young men 18-35 are invited to a **FREE** Weekend of Discovery retreat, Friday through Sunday, **October 14-15-16, 2016** at



Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary. *The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest.* No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense involved in participating in this retreat. E-mail your reply to: vocations@archeparchy.org.

PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO SERVE PASTA DINNER — The Priests and Deacons in the Pittsburgh Deanery will be hosting a **FREE PASTA DINNER** at St. Elias Church, Munhall on **Sunday October 9, 2016** from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. A sign-up list is located in the Church. We must know how many to prepare for! The final day for registration is Sunday, October 2. A freewill offering will be taken.

