

## Parish Offerings – Nov. 6, 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 (\$2,783) YP (\$23)	\$2,806.00
Holy Days	55.00
Archdiocesan Charities	423.00
Coffee Social	42.50
Votive Candles	95.50
	<hr/>
	\$3,422.00

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

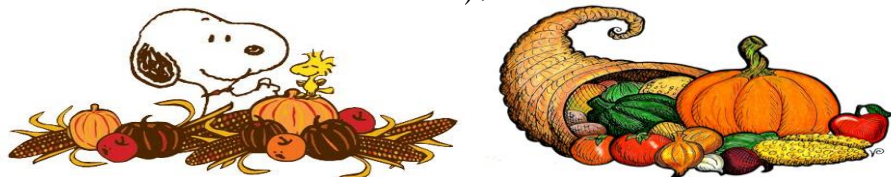
Regular Offering	\$557.00
Holy Days (\$80) Thanksgiving (\$20)	100.00
Utilities (\$110) Improvements (\$70)	180.00
Archdiocesan Charities	22.00
Votive Candles	43.00

### Church Attendance Last Week \$902.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (35);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (93); (NS) 11:00 am (40)

St. Michael the Archangel — Tue. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (12); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (11)



**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
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Fax: (412) 331-6688  
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Supervisor, CFSP  
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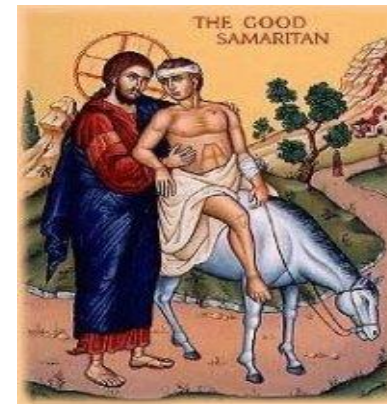
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PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE 26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 13, 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](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 Margaret Beliusas (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)

November 13, 2016

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VI, Number 46



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

SUN., Nov 13 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anita Y. Cifrulak Nephew: Mark & Nancy Cifrulak  
(2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing)



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



Holy Apostle Philip

Mon, Nov 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Thomas E. Ray Tina & Wallace Michalism  
(6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 11/12)

Commencement of the Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

Tue, Nov 15 (1) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Charles Wovchko Wife: Julia & Family  
(3<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing)

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)  
for the intention of the return of our beloved to Church



Wed, Nov 16 (2) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + H. Jayne Skeptach Debbie & Flo Charochak

Thrs, Nov 17 (3) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph F. Pospychala Sister: Bunny Zavidny  
(1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing)



REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)  
for the intention of the return of our beloved to Church

Fri, Nov 18 (4) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alice Charochak Margaret Dubensky

Sat., Nov 19 (5) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen Newport George Novak Family

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Margaret + Steve Kosko Family

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

Prefestive of the Entrance of Theotokos into Temple

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

SUN., Nov 20 (6) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka Children

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 14 – MILAN JUGAN; Nov 15 – Barbara Feldman; Nov 16 – Maria Iyengar, Paul Rubish; Nov 17 – Kathleen Marks; Nov 18 – Andrew Nazak, Amanda Singel.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, 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, EVELYN VENTO, 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.

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Andrew Drukalsky.

SUNRISE OF EAST COBB (1551 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta, GA 30062): AGNES KNOLL.

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

Q. Recently a Fundamentalist accused me (and Catholics in general) of idolatry because his mother-in-law (who is Catholic) put a statue of Mary in her garden to "help her flowers grow." What do I tell him? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: Idolatry is worshiping a statue as a god. His mother-in-law is certainly not doing that. I don't know how she explained it to him (she may have expressed herself badly or he may not have been listening), but based on the description of her explanation you have given, what she is doing at most would be superstitious, not idolatrous—unless she worships the statue as some kind of flower goddess (not likely!). Bottom line: If she thinks the statue is a god, it's idolatry; if she thinks it is not a god but has intrinsic power, it's superstition; if she thinks the statue has no intrinsic power and by placing the statue she is asking Mary to pray that God will bless her garden, it's prayer.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 13 — November 19, 2016

(MR): In memory of Elizabeth & Regis McCusker

offered by Children & Grand-Children

(NS): In memory of Brother: Tommy

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Sister: A. Velma Seman

(NS) NOW AVAILABLE 2017



## McKees Rocks Announcements

**PARISH PA CONGRESSMAN RETIRES FROM SERVICE** — We wish to extend our most sincere gratitude to parishioner, **Nick Kotik**, for all the years he had serviced as a Congressman for the Commonwealth from the 45<sup>th</sup> District. He was elected to this position back in 2002 and served as a ranking member of the Gaming Oversight Committee. He served 14 years as a legislator. Despite his many responsibilities across the state to Harrisburg each week, he was able to be present at Holy Ghost over most of the weekends with his wife, Shirley. Nick has been instrumental in securing the Picnic Shelter off of Cleaver Road for the past few years. We are extremely grateful for helping his Church whenever called upon. May God grant to Nick & Shirley, health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE** — In our love for the less fortunate, we will hold a 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 entrances. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092. We thank her for heading this project, once again, this year.



**STILL SEEKING SOMONE TO LEAD OUR PIROHI PROJECT! CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE!**

## Northside Announcements

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Stanley Lubinski, 92**, of Bellevue, at home on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. He was the husband of the late parishioner, Helen (Spontak) who passed in June 2014. He was the Uncle of Ed (Mary Frances) Spontak; and Great-Uncle of Ed (Kelly) Spontak & Family, Jr & Brad Spontak. He was also the Uncle of Fr. James Spontak, Portage, PA. The Funeral Mass was offered on Saturday, November 12 @ 1:00 p.m. Interment took place at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Pittsburgh. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Kunsak Funeral Home, Northside; and **James Smith, 89**, of Chippewa Township at the Heritage Valley Medical Center. He was the Son-in-law of parishioner, Mary Sahayda. He was of the Protestant Faith. Internment took place at the Murrysville Presbyterian Cemetery on Monday, October 24. Our sincere condolences are extended to the families. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servants, Stanley and James, and remember them forever! Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'



**TURKEY BINGO AND BAKE SALE NEXT WEEK** — Our *Annual Turkey Bingo* is next **Sunday, November 20, 2016**. Early Bird: 2:00 p.m. & Regular Games @ 3:00 p.m. We will also have a bake sale (please bring some goodies) along with the bingo. We need volunteers to make bake goods and to volunteer to help this project run smoothly! We also have a **50/50 RAFFLE**. Following the Divine Liturgy, 50/50 Raffle & Basket tickets will be available for purchase in the narthex. The proceeds help meet our constant expenses!

## What We May and May not Do with the Body After Death

(This abridged article is transmitted from the Catholic Answers Webpage: [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com) with permission. It presents Catholic teaching concerning questions especially on cremation. The article was written by Karlo Broussard — November 7, 2016)

"For the living know that they will die," says the author of Ecclesiastes (Eccles. 9:5). This is a reality we all face. But the question of what to do with the body after death remains. May we cremate it?



The Holy See

If so, may we scatter the ashes or must we preserve them? ... Such questions weigh heavy on the minds and hearts of many who contact Catholic Answers. Therefore, it's important that we address the question of what we can and can't do with the body after death. To dust you shall return. Let's take the cremation issue. In August, the Congregation of the Doctrine for the Faith (CDF) addressed several pertinent questions concerning cremation in its instruction *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* ("To rise with Christ") (ARC). The document makes clear that the Church is not opposed to cremation: The Church raises no doctrinal objections to this practice, since cremation of the deceased's body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life. Thus cremation, in and of itself, objectively negates neither the Christian doctrine of the soul's immortality nor that of the resurrection of the body. . **Cremation is not**

**prohibited, "unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine" (ARC 4). It is important to note that the document doesn't endorse the practice. It merely notes the Church is not opposed to it. This signals the Church's strong preference for burial of the deceased,** something the document makes clear: "The Church continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased, because this shows a greater esteem towards the deceased" (ARC 4). Ashes abroad: The question that is asked most often is whether we can scatter the ashes of the deceased. The answer is **no**: In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects. These courses of action cannot be legitimized by an appeal to the sanitary, social, or economic motives that may have occasioned the choice of cremation (ARC 7). Although the scene of Tom scattering the ashes of his son Daniel in the movie *The Way* may have been dramatic cinema, it was not Catholic. **Grandma on the mantle?** "Okay, maybe we can't scatter the ashes," you say, "so we'll put Grandma's ashes on the mantle in our home." Though it may be a good sentiment, **the Church doesn't permit that either**: The conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted. Only in grave and exceptional cases dependent on cultural conditions of a localized nature, may the ordinary, in agreement with the Episcopal Conference or the Synod of Bishops of the Eastern (Rite) Churches, concede permission for the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence (ARC 6). Now that we know what we can't do, what can we do? **The CDF specifies that the ashes must be preserved in a sacred place**: When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority (ARC 5). Why the sacred place? The reasons for this can be found in the list of reasons the CDF gives for burying the dead in a sacred place. It expresses the Church's faith in the resurrection of the body (ARC 3). It shows "the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity" (ARC 3). It "corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed who through baptism have become temples of the Holy Spirit" (ARC 3). It "encourages family members and the whole Christian community to pray for and remember the dead" and upholds "the relationship between the living and the dead" and "has opposed any tendency to minimize, or relegate to the purely private sphere, the event of death and the meaning it has for Christians" (ARC 3).

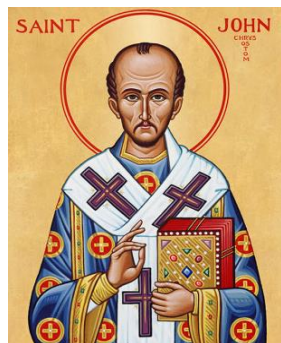
## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15 ..... Commencement of the Philippian Fast.  
 November 20 ..... (NS) Turkey Bingo @ 2:00 p.m. & Tentative GCU Lodge 390 Meeting (MR) @ 2:00 pm.  
 November 21 . Solemn HD: Entrance into the Temple of Theotokos (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 November 24 ..... Annual Thanksgiving Day — (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.  
 November 27 ..... Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.  
 December 4 ..... Parish & Archeparchial St. Nicholas Celebration.  
 December 5 ..... Decorating the (MR) Church for Christmas @ 6:00 p.m.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE — November 13

Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, one of the Three Hierarchs [January 30], was born at Antioch in about the year 347 into the family of a military commander. His father, Secundus, died soon after the birth of his son. His mother, Anthusa, widowed at twenty years of age, did not seek to remarry but rather devoted all her efforts to the raising of her son in Christian piety. The youth studied under the finest philosophers and rhetoricians. But, scorning the vain disciplines of pagan knowledge, the future hierarch turned himself to the profound study of Holy Scripture and prayerful contemplation. St Meletius, Bishop of Antioch (February 12), loved John like a son, guided him in the Faith, and in the year 367 baptized him. After three years John was tonsured as a Reader. When St Meletius had been sent into exile by the emperor Valens in the year 372, John studied under the experienced instructors of ascetic life, the presbyters Flavian and Diodorus of Tarsus. The highly refined Diodorus had particular influence upon the youth. When John's mother died, he



embraced monasticism, which he called the "true philosophy." Soon John and his friend Basil were being considered as candidates for the episcopal office, and they decided to withdraw into the wilderness to avoid this. While St John avoided the episcopal rank out of humility, he secretly assisted in Basil's consecration. For two years, the saint lived in a cave in complete silence, but was obliged to return to Antioch to recover his health. St Meletius, the Bishop of Antioch, ordained him deacon in the year 381. In the year 386 St John was ordained presbyter by Bishop Flavian of Antioch. **St John was a splendid preacher, and his inspired words earned him the name "Golden-Mouthed" ("Chrysostom").** For twelve years the saint preached in church, usually twice a week, but sometimes daily, deeply stirring the hearts of his listeners. As a priest, St John zealously fulfilled the Lord's command to care for the needy. Under St John, the Antiochian Church provided sustenance each day to as many as 3,000 virgins and widows, not including in this number the shut-ins, wanderers and the sick. The fame of the holy preacher grew, and in the year 397 with the death of Archbishop Nectarius of Constantinople, successor to St Gregory the Theologian, St John Chrysostom was elected to the See of Constantinople. The financial means apportioned for the archbishop were channeled by the saint into the upkeep of several hospices for the sick and two hostels for pilgrims. He fasted strictly and ate very little food, and usually refused invitations to dine because of his delicate stomach. The saint's zeal in spreading the Christian Faith extended not only to the inhabitants of Constantinople, but also to Thrace to include Slavs and Goths, and to Asia Minor and the Pontine region. He compiled a Liturgy, he introduced antiphonal singing for the all-night Vigil, and he wrote several prayers for the rite of anointing the sick with oil. The saintly hierarch denounced the dissolute morals of people in the capital, especially at the imperial court, irrespective of person. In the winter of 406 St John was confined to his bed with sickness. After receiving the Holy Mysteries, the hierarch fell asleep in the Lord on September 14, 407. His last words were, "Glory to God for all things!" Although he died on September 14, St John's celebration was transferred to this day because of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. St John Chrysostom is also celebrated on January 27 and January 30.

## General Announcements

**ARCHIEPARICHAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION** — The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Nicholas Celebration will take place at the Cathedral and Cathedral Center on **Sunday, December 4, 2016**. This year's theme is "Service: Love in Action." Tickets are priced at \$40.00 per adult and \$18.00 per child ages 12 and under. We'd like to get at least one full table per parish family. Please sign the list in the (MR) Side Vestibule; (NS) Narthex. **Parish deadline is today, November 13.**



**YOUNG & NOT SO YOUNG ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED** — For both Parishes, this announcement is extended to all young male members (enrolled in our ECF Program); and elderly males wishing to join the *Ministry of Altar Server*. You are asked to come forward and declare your intention. There will be three classes and a practicum! The dates are on Mondays, November 27, Dec. 5 & 12. Father needs elderly servers (upper high school and above) to assist him during the week at funerals. A special time will be arranged for them. It's an important and fulfilling ministry! If you are interested, please approach Fr. Firko or by calling the church office (412) 771-3324.



**RESERVATIONS GOING FAST FOR ADDITIONAL DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS** — A good many of the Weekend Divine Liturgy times and Sanctuary Lamps have already been reserved for 2017. There are approximate 2 remaining for MR, but still several for the NS. 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 your request! Thanks to all who are participating in this spiritual program! These are two great ways to remember your beloved departed!



**GCU LODGE 390 FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING NEXT WEEK** — Lodge members are reminded of the 4th quarterly meeting next **Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** in the MR church basement. Members are urged to attend this important meeting.



## Early Christian Teachings on Pondering the Confession of Sins

"Confess your sins in church, and do not go up to your prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of life. . . . On the Lord's Day gather together, break bread, and give thanks, after confessing your transgressions so that your sacrifice may be pure" (*Didache* 4:14, 14:1 [A.D. 70]).

"[Regarding confession, some] flee from this work as being an exposure of themselves, or they put it off from day to day. I presume they are more mindful of modesty than of salvation, like those who contract a disease in the more shameful parts of the body and shun making themselves known to the physicians; and thus they perish along with their own bashfulness" (Tertullian on *Repentance* 10:1 [A.D. 203]).