

Parish Offerings – Nov. 13, 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 (\$1,889.50) YP (\$9)	\$1,898.50
Holy Days	130.00
Archdiocesan Charities	80.00
Christmas Decor	5.00
Votive Candles	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,213.50

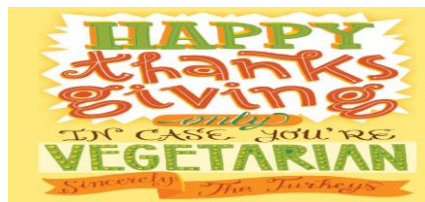
Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$571.00
Holy Days	25.00
Utilities	5.00
Donation to the Poor	15.00
Votive Candles	60.40

Church Attendance Last Week \$676.40

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (43);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (88); (NS) 11:00 am (48)



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 Thanksgiving!



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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1st Sunday of the Philippian Fast — November 20, 2016



FINAL DAY OF THE EXTRA-JUBILEE 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 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

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 20, 2016

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VI, Number 47



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

27th Sunday after Pentecost

Prefestive of the Entrance of Theotokos into Temple

1st 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

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Mon, Nov 21 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + John Debranski (10th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy

Tue, Nov 22 (8) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of the Bebech Family Mary & Mike Bebech

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

Wed, Nov 23 (9) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Olga + John Wovchko John Wovchko, Jr. & Family

Annual Thanksgiving Day
Thrs, Nov 24 (10) 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 Church

Fri, Nov 25 (11) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marie Jumba (birthday 11/24) Carol & Frank Lipchick

Sat., Nov 26 (12) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Stefan + Maria + Stefan + Josef Michael Lorinc

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

4:00 p.m. (MR) + James M. Droter (54th ann of passing) Marge & James Lautenschlager

28th Sunday after Pentecost

2nd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Thanksgiving Weekend

SUN., Nov 27 (13) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Alphonse A. Siglow (6th ann of passing 11/30) Dgtr: Kathe & Bill Kress
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; Nov 25 — Matthew Grzywinski.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Iona 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. Why does the Church practice closed Communion? If unity is caused by sharing in the Lord's Table, then why not let everybody receive, whether they are Catholic or not? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Because unity is not caused by sharing in the Lord's Table any more than a marriage is caused by intercourse. For those who are out of full communion with the Catholic Church, the spiritual unity must happen first (by entering into full unity with the Church through the rites of initiation), just as those who are not married must be married before they can enter into bodily unity. In both cases, the physical unity naturally flows from the spiritual unity. Eucharist strengthens the unity of the Body of Christ, just as the marriage act strengthens the sacrament of matrimony. But we must do first things first!

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 20 — November 26, 2016

(MR): In memory of John R. Debranski

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS): Health & Welfare of Agnes Knoll

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Joan Senchysyn

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017

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 located near the elevator in the side vestibule. 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 11**. 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 in memory of Margaret "Peggy" Krulac who for several years made this project a reality.



TODAY IS LAST SUNDAY FOR THE NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE — In our love for the less fortunate, we are collecting and dispersing nonperishable food items to *Focus On Renewal* in time for Thanksgiving early tomorrow morning. Please bring non-expired items to the Church and place them at the 9093. The Christmas Drive will begin next weekend until December 4. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092.



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

Northside Announcements

TURKEY BINGO AND BAKE SALE TODAY — Our *Annual Turkey Bingo* is today, **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 Social Center. The proceeds help meet our constant expenses!



Short Historical Background on Thanksgiving Day

The first American Thanksgiving was celebrated in **1621**, to commemorate the harvest reaped by the Plymouth Colony after a harsh winter. In that year Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving. The colonists celebrated it as a traditional English harvest feast, to which they invited the local Wampanoag Indians. Days of thanksgiving were celebrated throughout the colonies after fall harvests. George Washington was the first president to declare the holiday, in 1789. By the mid-1800s, many states observed a Thanksgiving holiday. During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln, looking for ways to unite the nation, discussed the subject with Hale. In 1863 he gave his Thanksgiving Proclamation, declaring the last Thursday in November a day of thanksgiving. Congress passed a joint resolution in 1941 decreeing that Thanksgiving should fall on the fourth Thursday of November, where it remains.



"The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth"
By Jennie A. Brown (1856-1890)
Painted 1894

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.

Our Holy Father's General Audience Vatican City State — November 16, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our catechesis for this Holy Year of Mercy, we now consider **the spiritual work of mercy which is bearing wrongs patiently**. In showing patience to those who wrong us and, by extension, to those we find irritating, we imitate God's own patience with us sinners. Exercising patience with others also challenges us to reflect on our own conduct and failings. Patience is also required in two related spiritual works of mercy: admonishing sinners and instructing the ignorant. We think of the patience shown by the many parents, catechists and teachers who quietly help young people to grow in faith and knowledge of the important things in life. Helping others to look past the ephemeral, to discover the Lord's will in their lives and thus to find lasting joy, is a great act of charity. By serving our brothers and sisters in this way, our own minds and hearts are purified and renewed. May the Holy Spirit grant us the generosity and patience needed to support and encourage those around us, so that together we may cherish the things that truly matter.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 20 (NS) Turkey Bingo @ 2:00 p.m. & Tentative GCU Lodge 390 Meeting (MR) @ 2:00 p.m.
 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 ECF St. Nicholas Party & Archieparchial St. Nicholas Charity Dinner.
 December 5 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 11 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.
 December 17 Installation of new altar servers at Divine Liturgy.
 Slavjane Christmas Party following the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy.
 December 18 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students
 Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:00 p.m.
 December 24 (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.
 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 2nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.
 December 27 3rd Day of Christmas — Feast of St. Stephen DL — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
 December 30 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Golden Corral @ 6:00 p.m.
 December 31 Final Day of Christmas — New Year's Eve Divine Liturgy — (MR) 4:00 p.m.
 January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 a.m.

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

1ST WEEK: SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS — We begin our first full week in our journey through the PHILIPPIAN FAST this past Nov. 15. It is called the Philippiian 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, 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 begin our practice of *Simple Abstinence (no meat)* or an *equivalent penance (your choice)* on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (required) for the intention for the return of our beloved back to Church.



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!

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 for **younger members through Jr. High School are on Weds Nov. 27, Dec. 5 & 12.** Father needs elderly servers (upper high school and above) to assist him during the week at funerals. The times for **Sr. High School and Adults are: Tues., Nov. 29, Mon., 12/5 & 12/12** If you are interested, please approach Fr. Firko or by calling the church office (412) 771-3324.



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



2017 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES TO BE PUT OUT SOON — The new year's contribution envelopes are ready to go, but the Church Calendars have still not arrived. The tentative date for picking them up will be the weekend of Dec. 3-4 in the Church Basement. If the calendars arrive, you will receive them earlier. Thank you for your patience.

EXTRA-ORDINARY YEAR OF MERCY ENDS TODAY — As Holy Doors close in Catholic churches and basilicas around the world, including in Rome, it is estimated that more than 20 million people participated in the church's Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican — and a billion people may have participated in churches worldwide.