

## Parish Offerings – Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day – Dec. 25, 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 .....	\$1,937.00
Holy Days (\$677) Christmas (\$3,908) Christmas YP (\$18) .....	4,603.00
Spec. Don. (In mem of Skalyo & Horvath Fam. By Joyce Walsh & Fam.) ....	25.00
Votive Candles .....	138.00
	<hr/>
	\$6,703.00

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering .....	\$810.00
Holy Days (\$30) Christmas (\$875) .....	905.00
Spec. Don. (for parents & grandparents Irene & Milan by Carol Jugan, Abigail & Isabella Rush) ....	1,500.00
Utilities (\$22) Improvement (\$20) Christmas Flowers (\$25) .....	67.00
Votive Candles .....	67.00

### Church Attendance Last Week \$3,329.00

(MR) Christmas Eve., 9:00 pm (110);

Christmas Day, (MR) 9:00 am (110); (NS) 11:00 am (34)

Dec. 26: Synaxis of Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 am (20); (NS) 6:00 pm (10)

Dec. 27: Feast of St. Stephen — (MR) 9:00 am (21); (NS) 6:00 pm (4)





**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
331-9713  
Fax: (412) 331-6688  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
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*This year I resolve to lose 8 pounds! That's right, I'm giving away my bowling ball.*



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PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

**Feast of St. Basil the Great — January 1, 2017**



**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

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 Belinas (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

The all-good God was not ashamed to be circumcised in the flesh, but He offered Himself as a symbol and an example of salvation to all. For the Maker of the Law submitted Himself to its commands and to what the prophets beforehand told of Him. O our God Who holds all things in Your hands and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes, O Lord, glory to You!

Jan 1, 2017 Christian Greeting Volume VII, Number 1



Christ is Born! — Glorify Him!  
Christos Razdajetsja! — Slavite Jeho!



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>Feast of Our Lord's Circumcision — Feast of St. Basil — Sunday before the Enlightenment — New Year Day — Mirovanije</b>			

SUN., JAN 1	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Agnes Kress (7 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)	Son: Bill & Kathe
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	



### Prefestive of Theophany

Mon, Jan 2	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Kotik (birthday 1/1)	American Legion 618
Tue, Jan 3	8:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Margo Family	+ Elizabeth Moss
Wed., Jan 4	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Andrew Herczak	Family



### Vigil of Theophany — Recommended Simple Abstinence (no meat)

Thrs., Jan 5	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Royal 6 <sup>th</sup> Hour of Theophany	
	1:00 p.m. (MR)	Great Vespers w/St. Basil DL + Fr. John Kasarda (birthday)	

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Anticipated Theophany Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom — Holy Day of Obligation  
Followed by the Great Sanctification of Water**

7:00 p.m. (MR) + Elsie + Francis Eberle Dgtr: Mary Lynn Condeluci

## Feast of Holy Theophany (no abstinence today)

**Holy Day of Obligation — Great Sanctification of Water**

**Baptism of Our Lord, God & Savior Jesus Christ — Mirovanije**

FRI., JAN 6	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	+ Esther M. Kallop	M/M Hirschfield

### Saturday after Holy Theophany & Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Sat., Jan 7	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Michael Sotak, Jr. (4 <sup>th</sup> ann of pass 1/1)	Wife: Jane
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**Anticipated Sunday Divine Liturgy after the Enlightenment — Postfestive of Holy Theophany**

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John R. Debranski (birthday 1/12) Dgtr: Nancy



## Sunday after the Enlightenment

**We Will Renew Our Baptismal Promises**

SUN., JAN 8	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Michael Lorinc (Memorial)	

# 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:** Jan 2 – Stephanie Herron; Jan 3 – Bernadette Gunkel, Shirley Kotik; Jan 4 – George Brosky, Nicholas Gunkel; Jan 6 – Thomas Dubensky; Jan 7 – ISABELLA RUSH.

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, 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.

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

**OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL** (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Margaret Belianus.

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

**Q.** Why can't priests hear confessions through electronic media such as telephone, e-mail, or Internet? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Confession on the telephone or by e-mail is not permitted by the Church for a couple of reasons. First, the sacrament of confession is a *personal encounter* with Jesus. Second, maintaining secrecy is essential. The "Church declares that every priest who hears confessions is bound under very severe penalties to keep absolute secrecy regarding the sins that his penitents have confessed to him" (CCC 1467). E-mail, the Internet, and telephones are never completely private.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**January 1 — January 7, 2017**

(MR): **In memory of Diane Voigt** (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 1/7)

offered by Sister: Janet Sendro & Family

(NS): **In memory of Mary Firko & Mary Hrivnak**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Grandson & Nephew: Fr. Firko . (NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017





# McKees Rocks Announcements

**ECF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEXT WEEK** — The second semester for the ECF Religious Education Program commences next week, **January 8, 2017** following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Parents, God-parents and Guardians, If your children are not enrolled in this program, please have them attend these religious education classes. This is required should they be asked to stand as a sponsor for Baptism, along with Sunday & Holy Day of Obligation attendance and the use of their



## Religious Education

contribution envelopes. Enrollment may be directed to Coordinator, Steve Puluka . (412) 897-4650. For those who are seeking a Holy Ghost Church Scholarship Subsidy for Parochial Education, this is also an obligatory requirement.

**COFFEE SOCIAL RESUMES ON THE FIRST FULL WEEKEND OF THE MONTH** — Just a reminder that our Coffee Social resumes the first full weekend of each month. Join us today following next weekend's Divine Liturgies for coffee and doughnuts.



**CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED** — We no sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it will be time to dismantle it for another year. We will gather on **Monday, January 16, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.** and ask an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider assisting us, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.

**2017 SANCTUARY LAMP REQUESTS FILLED FOR OUR PARISH** — A few of you are still submitting stipend requests for Sanctuary Lamps. They have been all been reserved several weeks ago. However, if you would like that they be fulfilled at our Northside Parish, you may request them since there are several weeks remaining. Thank you for making this spiritual bouquet possible for your intentions which also reduce our candle expense.



## Northside Announcements

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner, **Michael Lorinc, 82**, of Brighton Heights, at the Northside home of his Sister, Helen Lorinc, on Friday, December 23, 2017. He is the husband of parishioner, Elizabeth (Betty) Lorinc. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home, Blawnox, PA. Christian Burial will be at a later date. To the entire Lorinc Family our Parish extends it's most sincere sympathy. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Michael, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'.



**CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED** — We no sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it will be time to dismantle it for another year. **Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy on January 15, 2017**, we ask an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider assisting us, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.

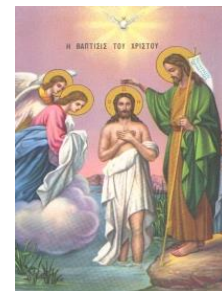


**Have a Safe & Happy NEW YEAR!!**

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE ENLIGHTENMENT

### The Meaning of this Third Important Feast of the Liturgical Year:

The term "Enlightenment" refers to BAPTISM. This week we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River by John. It is the Revelation of the Holy Trinity. The observance of this feast is not merely intended to commemorate the historical act of Jesus' baptism, but rather to celebrate the identification of Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One whose coming was foretold by the prophets. What happened at the banks of the Jordan River was a mystical event. The Spirit of God was seen descending upon Jesus in the form of a dove and a voice was heard from the heavens declaring, "This is my beloved Son, My favor rests on Him." (Mark 1:11) Prior to this moment, Jesus was recognized as merely a carpenter from Nazareth, the son of Mary and Joseph. After His baptism. He was now identified as the Son of God. This is why the feast day is referred to as "Theophany," a term which literally suggests a "God revelation/appearance." John's role in this event was not simply as baptizer, but also as prophet. He foretold the coming of the Kingdom. The theme of his preaching was, "One more powerful than I is to come after me!" (Mark 1:7) John witnessed the fulfillment of this prophecy at the Baptism of our Lord. We, too, like John, are called to be prophets. We, like John, prepare the way of the Lord by the way we conduct our lives, by the way we choose our words, and by the way we treat others. May we invite our Lord to come within us during this festive season so that we, in turn, might prepare a place for Him in others. "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in their midst," says the Lord.



### The House is to receive God's Presence

#### In Preparation for another year of House Blessings:

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing, once again, in the New Year. What a wonderful way to begin the 2015! As the priest enters the house, he greets the family by saying: **Peace be to this house!** The response is: **And to all who dwell therein!** In a main room or at the icon corner place a candle, cross and/or icon on a clean linen cloth. • Have a small container of holy water that was blessed on the feast of Theophany. • Have all radios, stereos, televisions, etc., turned off for the blessing. • Please have all pets confined or restrained. • If you have any religious articles you wish to be blessed, please place them on the table by the holy water. • When the priest arrives have everyone present assemble in the prepared place. • Sing the festal troparion and as much of the ritual as possible. In some places the cantor accompanies the priest, in others the priest goes alone. Therefore, participation is important. • By custom, in some places, the youngest member of the family, carrying a candle, leads the priest through the house for the blessing. The faithful remain quiet until the priest returns.



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1 ..... New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9 :00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 am.  
 ..... (NS) Pot-Luck Luncheon following the Divine Liturgy at Social Center (cancelled).  
 January 5 ..... 8:00 a.m. ROYAL HOURS OF THEOPHANY; 1:00 p.m. Great Vespers w/ DL of St Basil;  
 (MR) 7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy w/ Sanctification of Water — Holy Day of Obligation.  
 January 6 ..... HOLY THEOPHANY — HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION — SANCTIFICATION OF WATER  
 Divine Liturgies & Mirovanije: (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 January 7-8 ..... Monthly Coffee & Doughnut Social following the Weekend Divine Liturgies.  
 January 15 ..... Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Divine Liturgy.  
 January 16 ..... Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations @ 6:00 p.m.  
 January 18-25 ..... Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.  
 January 22 ..... 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion.  
 January 30 ..... Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs – Simple Holy Day – 9:00 a.m. (MR); 6:00 p.m. (NS)  
 February 2 ..... Feast of the Encounter w/ Sanctification of Candles – 9:00 a.m. (MR) & 7:00 p.m. (NS)

## Saint of the Week

### FEAST OF OUR LORD'S CIRCUMCISION & FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT — January 1

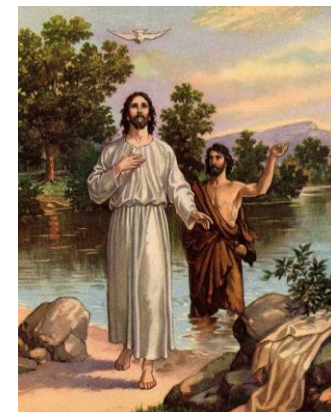
The Mosaic Law prescribed that when a woman brought a male child into the world, he had to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. Our Lord submitted to the circumcision prescribed by the Law on this day, which is the eighth day after His birth, and received, according to the announcement of the angel, the name which is above all names, "Jesus" or Savior. In celebrating the name day of the Lord today, we begin the New Year at the same time under the sign of the Nativity of Christ. Saint Basil the Great belonged, through his father also named Basil, to the province of Pontus, and through his Emmelia, to the province of Pontus, and through

his mother Emmelia, to Cappadocia. He was born in Caesarea in Cappadocia around 329-330. He studied in Caesarea, then in Constantinople under Libanius, and finally in Athens, where he became a close friend of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus. Shortly after his return to Caesarea which occurred about 356, he retired in solitude to the outskirts of Neocaesarea, where his mother and his sister Macrina already led the monastic life. It is at that time he composed his ascetical writings. He was ordained a priest by Eusebius, Archbishop of Caesarea, and at the death of the latter was elected in 370 to succeed him and rule the Church of Christ. He governed it for eight years, during which time he proved himself a witness of the truth in the face of heresy and full of courage before the threats of the Arian Emperor Valens. He died on January 1, in the year 379. The wisdom and the learning which fill his works, his Philokalia (extracts from the works of Origen), his Treatise on the Holy Spirit, his theological work against the Arian Eunomius, his ascetical writings, his monastic rules, his commentaries on Sacred Scripture, the panegyrics which he made of many saints, his correspondence, and finally the splendor and the force of his words, have won for him rightly the epitaphs of "Revealer of Heaven," and of the "Great."



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FEAST OF THEOPHANY THIS WEEK** – Friday, **January 6, 2017**, is the *Feast of Holy Theophany*. It the Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ and is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Remember we are obliged to attend the Divine Liturgy on this day! It is on this Feast that water is solemnly blessed. *There will be three Divine Liturgies: (MR) Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and (MR) Friday at 9:00 a.m. and (NS) 6:00 p.m.* Please remember to bring your own container for the newly sanctified water. Each home should have newly blessed water. Last year's holy water is to be discarded reverently in a place that is not trampled upon. DO NOT pour it down the drain. If you find it difficult to discard bring it to the Church. The Northside has a holy sink that drains into the ground beneath the church. You are encouraged to use the newly sanctified water throughout the New Year by anointing yourself with it and even drinking it.



**PASTOR PREPARES FOR HOUSE BLESSINGS THIS YEAR** — Once again, Fr.



Frisko will make every effort to bless homes this year by requests. If you would like to have your home blessed following the Great Sanctification of Water on the Feast of Holy Theophany, January 6, please call the Church office. House Blessings will conclude prior to the Season of the Great Fast (February 27).

**SEASONAL GREETING FOR THE UPCOMING NINE DAYS** — From the Divine Liturgy on January 5 through January 14, the greeting that we salute each other with is **CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! (CHRISTOS KRESCAJETSJA!)**. The response is **IN THE JORDAN (VO JORDANI!)**. Let us glorify the Lord this festive season by greeting and responding with this traditional custom celebrating the Lord Jesus' Baptism!

**COMMENCING A NEW CONTRIBUTION YEAR** — As we welcome in the New Year of 2017, we have closed the financial year of 2016. All contributions from today on will be credited to your 2017 forms. This includes any Christmas or Holy Day envelopes in the past year. Our Holy Ghost wishes to thank all of you who have faithfully contributed to the support of the Church. Your faithful and sacrificial offerings have made it possible to enter our 110 year of existence continuing the proclamation and preaching of the Holy Gospel and the dispensing the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). May God bless you for making this possible. Let us now head on to 2017!



**END OF THE YEAR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS ARE NOW READY AND POSSIBLE TO BE SENT VIA E-MAIL! PLEASE REQUEST IT NOW BY PHONING THE CHURCH OFFICE OR BY SUBMITTING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO FFAF334@VERIZON.NET! WE CAN EVEN SEND IT TO YOU THROUGH THE MAIL!**