

## Parish Offerings – Circumcision of Our Lord

### New Year's Day – Jan. 1, 2017

“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 (\$2,063) Reg 2016 (\$50)	\$2,113.00
Holy Days (\$311.50) YP (\$17) Holy Day 2016 (\$215)	543.50
Christmas 2016 (\$45) Initial (\$185) B.C.W. (\$5)	235.00
Votive Candles	129.50
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	\$3,021.00

#### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$415.50
Holy Days (\$124) Holy Day 2016 (\$15) Christmas 2016 (\$20)	159.00
Utilities (\$45) Improvement (\$45) Initial (\$55) B.C.W. (\$14)	159.00
Votive Candles	34.55
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	\$768.05

### Church Attendance Last Week

New Year 2017 Begins — (MR) Sat., 4:00 pm. (52);  
Sun., (MR) 9:00 am. (53); (NS) 11:00 am. (32)



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

**WATER**  
 $H_2O$   
**HOLY WATER**  
 $H_2$

**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
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Moon Township 15108  
Phone: (412) 262-9141  
Nancde@aol.com  
  
**Nancy C. Debranski**  
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**GCU**  
Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
A Fraternal Benefit Society  
Lodge 390 offers Insurance and  
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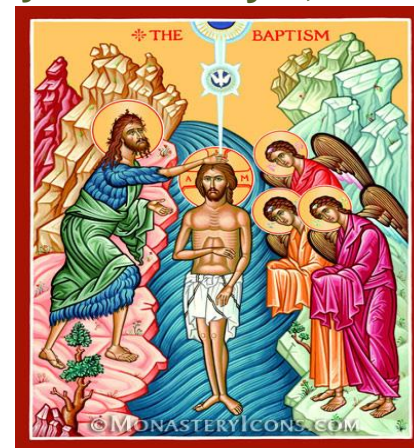
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**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Sunday after Theophany — January 8, 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 – E-Mail: ffa334@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 Beliuas (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

As the prophet foretold, a Great Light, Christ, has shown upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali. A people living in darkness have seen a Great Light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is a protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today (Ikos of Theophany Matins).

Jan 8, 2017

Christian Greeting (until Jan 14) Volume VII, Number 2



Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!  
Christos Krescajetsja! — Vo Jordan'ni!



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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### Sunday after the Enlightenment

We Will Renew Our Baptismal Promises — Postfestive of Theophany

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

Mon, Jan 9	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Frissora	Nephew: Dr. Gordan & Kate Frissora
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Tue, Jan 10	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Jennie Timulak	Sidun Family
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Wed., Jan 11	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elizabeth Mross	+ Elsie Eberle
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Thrs., Jan 12	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ann + Andrew Muska	Julia Wovchko & Son
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REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance) for Peace in the whole world

Fri., Jan 13	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Lillian Buchko	M/M Frank J. Lipchick
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### Final Day of Holy Theophany

Sat., Jan 14	9:00 a.m. (NS)	Health & Welfare	Jane R. Sotak
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Anticipated Sunday Divine Liturgy for the 35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

SUN., JAN 15	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Maletz	Son: Bob & Martha
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	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Leonard R. KLLOP, Sr. (birthday 1/12)	Children & Grandchildren
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## 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 9 – Andrew Drukalsky, WILLIAM GOGAL; Jan 10 – MARY ANN SMOLEY; Jan 11 – Dennis Uram; Jan 12 – Michael Harsh, Mike Tomchak; Jan 13 – MICHAEL BARBUSH, Mairella Kassabov, Noreen Muha; Jan 14 – James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole, Anna Mae Sejka..

## 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 Belunas.

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

**Q.** If Mary was born without original sin and did not sin during her life, does that mean that she did not need to be saved by Jesus? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Christ's death on the cross was an eternal event; as such, its graces could reach back in time, as well as forward. This means that the grace that Christ would win on Calvary could be applied to Mary in anticipation of Calvary. This was how she was saved from any stain of sin, both original and actual. Medieval theologians created the analogy of two people approaching a pit. If the first falls in and is rescued from the pit, and the second is prevented from falling into the pit, both are saved, and it even could be said that the one whose fall was prevented is saved far more completely than the one who was raised from the pit.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**January 8 — January 14, 2017**

(MR): In memory of Terrek & Mikovitz Families

offered by Mildred Terrek

(NS): Health & Welfare of Deborah McGinley

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

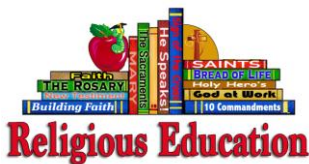
offered by Patty Porter

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017



# McKees Rocks Announcements

**ECF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM RESUMES TODAY** — The second semester for the ECF Religious Education Program commences today 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 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 FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY** — Just a reminder that our Coffee Social resumes today Join us today following the Divine Liturgies for coffee and doughnuts.

**REMINDER: 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.



**A NOTE FROM THE AREA MEALS-ON-WHEELS** — We have just received a letter of gratitude for our partial donation that was collected from your contribution envelopes 'for the poor': *"Reverend Firko & Holy Ghost Parishioners, the Staff and volunteers of the Sto-Ken-Rox Meals-On-Wheels thank you so very much for your generous Christmas donation of \$294.00 to the M-O-W Program. We greatly appreciate your help and concern to serve the needy in our community. May all of you have a Blessed New Year,"*— Carol Vevers, Treasurer.

**A NOTE FROM FAMILY FOUNDATION/EHS FOR THE ANGEL TREE GIFTS** — This past week the following communication arrived at the Church: *"Dear Barb, Fr. Frank & Holy Ghost Parishioners: We want to express our appreciation for your generosity in support of our families from Family Foundations/ Early Head Start. Your constant commitments were incredibly helpful and allowed our families to have a wonderful holiday. Thanks again for all you have done. God bless, Staff at Family Foundations."*

## Northside Announcements

**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.



**Remember to discard last year's Sanctified Water in a respectable manner and place! It is not to be poured down the drain!**

## CONTINUING OUR CELEBRATION

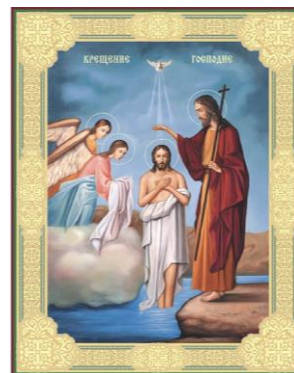


### THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST Sunday after the Enlightenment



**GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17**

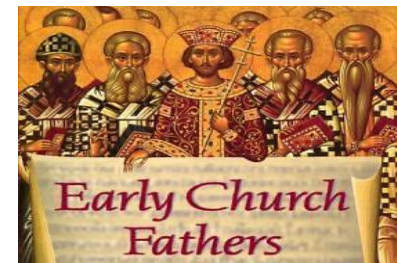
We are currently in the postfestive period of Holy Theophany, and it is designated to be a continuation of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This Sunday is referred to as the "Sunday after the Enlightenment." This designation comes from the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the "Enlightenment." It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus' own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared for their initiation and admission into the Church received baptism, chrismation and eucharist on that day.



Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one's own baptism, and how its relevance and personal effect have called us to be God's new chosen people. What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with Jesus' Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us? During this special year of Faith, take this Sunday's celebration to heart and recommit yourself to Christ since He promises eternal life and great mercy.

## The (Church) Fathers Know Best

The Early Church Fathers believed that being baptized was being born again. They baptized both adults and infants and they used three methods; immersion, pouring and sprinkling. **Tertullian:** "No one can attain salvation without baptism, especially in view of the declaration of the Lord, who says, "Unless a man shall be born of water, he shall not have life" (On Baptism 12:1 [A.D. 203]. **Origen:** "The Church received from the apostles the tradition of giving baptism even to infants. The apostles, to whom were committed the secrets of divine sacraments, knew there is in everyone innate strains of [original] sin, which must be washed away through water and the Spirit" (Commentaries on Romans 5:9 [A.D. 248])



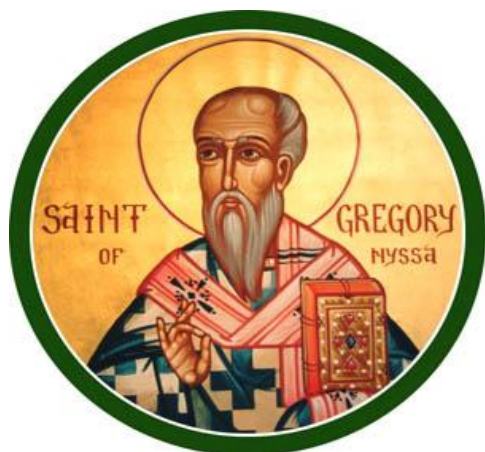
## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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 – (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS); 6:00 p.m.  
 February 2 ..... Feast of the Encounter w/ Sanctification of Candles – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00

### Saint of the Week

### Our Father among the Saints, Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa — January 10

Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, was a younger brother of Saint Basil the Great (Jan. 1). His birth and upbringing came at a time when the Arian disputes (those that didn't



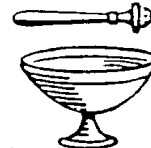
accept Jesus as God) were at their height. Having received an excellent education, he was at one time a teacher of rhetoric. In the year 372, he was consecrated by Saint Basil the Great as bishop of the city of Nyssa in Cappadocia. Saint Gregory was an ardent advocate for the True Faith, and he fought against the Arian heresy with his brother Saint Basil. Gregory was persecuted by the Arians, by whom he was falsely accused of improper use of church property, and thereby deprived of his

See and sent to Ancyra. Saint Gregory was restored to his cathedral after the death of Emperor Valens (378) and was joyously received by his flock. His brother Saint Basil the Great died in 379. Only with difficulty did Saint Gregory survive the loss of his brother and guide. He delivered a funeral oration for him, and completed Saint Basil's study of the six days of Creation. That same year Saint Gregory participated in the Council of Antioch against heretics who refused to recognize the perpetual virginity of the Mother of God. Others at the opposite extreme, who worshipped the Mother of God as being God Herself, were also denounced by the Council. In the year 381 Saint Gregory was one of the chief figures of the Second Ecumenical Council, convened at Constantinople against the heresy of Macedonius, who incorrectly taught about the Holy Spirit. At this Council, on the initiative of Saint Gregory, the Nicene Symbol of Faith (the Creed) was completed. In the year 383, Saint Gregory of Nyssa participated in a Council at Constantinople, where he preached a sermon on the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit. He was distinguished by his magnanimity, patience and love of peace. Having reached old age, Saint Gregory of Nyssa died soon after the Council of Constantinople.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK** — Just a reminder that The Feast of Holy Theophany – The Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, celebrated this past week on January 6 was a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. The Canon Law of our Byzantine Catholic Church states: "The Christian faithful are bound by the obligation to participate on **Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation)** in the Divine Liturgy ...." (Canon 881#1); and "are recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on these days ..." (Canon 881 #3); "and should abstain from those labors or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God ...." (Canon 881 #4). **Neglect of participation renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntarily neglect.** This is an important precept of the Church.

**PASTOR PREPARES FOR HOUSE BLESSINGS THIS YEAR** — Fr. Firko 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). By having our homes blessed, we renew our desire to have God with us throughout the New Year, and to have our most intimate lodging purified by the sanctified water and prayer of the priestly representative!



**SEASONAL GREETING UNTIL NEXT SATURDAY** — During this festive celebration of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism, 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's presence in our midst!

**ARCHIEPARCHIAL NEWSPAPER RAISES RATE** — For those of you who are subscribing to THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD, be reminded that they have raised their annual rate to \$14.00. This is the first raise in several years. It is a great source of news throughout our Archeparchy, and is well worth the investment. Please submit the entire cost in your contribution envelope. If you are a first time subscriber please write FIRST TIME on the envelope so that the office can forward your name and have it placed on our parochial list.

**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!**

*Please remember to pick up your envelopes and  
Calendar located in the Church basement.*