

## Parish Offerings – Dec. 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 (\$3,136) YP (\$7)	\$3,143.00
Holy Days (\$200) Christmas (\$25) YP (\$4)	229.00
Thanksgiving (\$35) Archdiocesan Charities (\$25) Christmas Decor (\$381)..	441.00
Special Donation (from Tillotson School In mem of + Elsie Eberle) ....	50.00
Votive Candles (\$88.30) Coffee Social (\$8)	96.30
	<hr/>
	\$3,959.30

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$486) Thanksgiving (\$5)	\$491.00
Holy Days (\$180) Christmas Flowers (\$67) Arch. Charities (\$10) ...	257.00
Special Donation (Roof Fund by Arlene Latta)	25.00
Utilities (\$45) Improvement (\$70)	115.00
Votive Candles	48.50

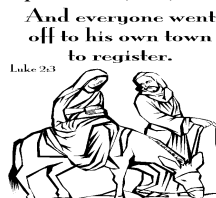
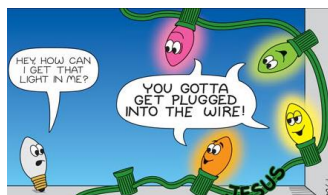
### Church Attendance Last Week \$936.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (49);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (95); (NS) 11:00 am (40)

*Feast of St. Nicholas (Dec. 6) — (MR) 9:00 am (12); (NS) 6:00 pm (12)*

*Feast of the Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 am (15); (NS) 6:00 pm (17)*



**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
Fax: (412) 331-6688  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
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## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE SUNDAY OF THE O.T. FOREFATHERS

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast — December 11, 2016



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 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)

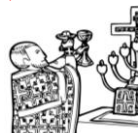
December 11, 2016

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VI, Number 50



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

### Sunday of the Old Testament Forefathers

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast — 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Christmas

SUN., Dec 11 (27) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Dgtr: Debbie & Sister: Irene  
Florence Charochak (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday)

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



Commemoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe — Our Lady of the Americas

Mon, Dec 12 (28) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + Michael + Dorothy Mary Sahayda  
+ Ella + Michael Sahayda

Tue, Dec 13 (29) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Florence (Flo) Szal (birthday 12/8) Dgtr: Sis, Mike & Family

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

Wed, Dec 14 (30) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary M (Paczan) Stefanick Family  
(4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)



Thrs., Dec 15 (31) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alex Rymniak Son: Alan & Tanya  
(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing)

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

Fri, Dec 16 (32) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Wahal Nephew: Burt & Nan Cifruk  
(2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing)

Sat., Dec 17 (33) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Stefan + Maria + Stefan + Josef Michael Lorinc



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Old Testament Holy Fathers

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Nicholas Terrek (birthday 12/19) Wife: Mildred & Family

### Sunday of the Old Testament Holy Fathers

5<sup>th</sup> & Final Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Sunday before Christmas

SUN., Dec 18 (34) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Cantor: John Fejka Dgtr: Susie Fejka  
(8<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 12/16)

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

3:00 p.m. (MR) Guest Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation

## 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: Dec 11 — Thomas Rubish, Michael Spisak; Dec 12 — Florence Charochak; Dec 13 — Nicholas Harsh; Dec 14 — CHRISTOPHER MEADERS, Steve Puluka, Roberta Rubish.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Norma Kacsur, 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.

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

Q. During a wedding rehearsal for a Catholic and non-Catholic, the priest invited the non-Catholics to receive the Eucharist at the nuptial Mass (Divine Liturgy) by saying "Anyone who believes that the Eucharist is the body and blood of Jesus Christ is invited to receive Communion at the wedding." Should he have done this? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: Such an invitation was inappropriate. With a mixed marriage, a Catholic and a non-Catholic Christian usually are counseled to have a nuptial liturgy outside of Mass (Divine Liturgy) to avoid the problem of a significant portion of the congregation—including the bride or groom—being unable to receive Communion.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

December 11 — December 17, 2016

(MR): In memory of Cantor: John Fejka

offered by Dgtr: Susie Fejka

(NS): In memory of Nicholas Senchyshyn

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Dgtr: Joan Senchyshyn (NS) STILL AVAILABLE 2017





## McKees Rocks Announcements

**RETURN ANGEL TREE GIFTS TODAY** — For those of you who have graciously taken an angel from the Angel Tree, please remember that you are to bring the gift back today UNWRAPPED with the angel taped on it no later than this **Sunday, December 11**. Please remember to include some festive wrapping paper for it to be wrapped by our volunteers. Children from Holy Family Social Services and Family Foundation will distribute these gifts to the children in time for Christmas. God bless all of you who have participated in this program and are making a child very happy and loved this Christmas Season.



### A NOTE OF



### GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO DECORATED THE CHURCH —

A special thank you is extended to all who came to decorate the Church last Monday evening. Our numbers are becoming drastically low for this Parish Project. Remember that all of us reap its benefits. The Church looks beautiful! We could not have done it without you!

**DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE FOR ONE MORE WEEK** — In our love for the less fortunate, we are collecting and dispersing nonperishable food items to *Focus On Renewal* in time for Christmas. Please bring non-expired items to the Church and place them at the entrances of the Church. They will be delivered on Monday, Dec. 19. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092.



**BANNS OF MARRIAGE III** — This is the third and final announcement of the upcoming marriage of **Subdeacon Vitalik Stashkevych (Uzhhorod)** and **Mary Elizabeth Kacsur (Holy Ghost Church)** later in the year on October 20, 2017. The early announcements of these Banns come at the request of the Mukachevo Eparchy. If anyone knows why these individuals cannot contract marriage, please notify the rectory office and ask to speak to the pastor

**INSTALLATION OF NEW ALTAR SERVERS NEXT WEEK** — At the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy next week, December 17, new altar servers will be vested in their cassock and dalmatic, and will join serving at the altar.

## Northside Announcements



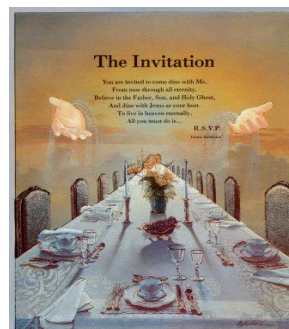
**SPECIAL CONFESSION OPPORTUNITY** — Our pastor will be offering a special opportunity for you to approach the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. The date and time will be on **Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** Please make a good Confession for Christmas!

**POT- LUCK LUNCHEON ON NEW YEAR'S DAY** — We would like to have a Northside Pot-Luck Pork and Sauerkraut Luncheon following the Sunday New Year's Day Divine Liturgy. We are asking that individuals bring in the food. The Church will provide the Coffee and Soda Pop. The success of this day will depend on you. It is open to both Parishes.

## Meditation on today's Gospel

*The way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored* — **Luke 14:16-24**

This familiar parable of the **Banquet** is proclaimed in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity.



In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His coming. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God/man Jesus Christ comes into the world. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us. However, there were some who refused this invitation, considering their own affairs to be more

important or more desirable than the feast of the King. Although God had chosen them, they did not choose God. Is this not like our first parents Adam and Eve? They too were chosen by God but they did not choose God and so were cast out of paradise. But our Creator, not willing to abandon His creation, prepared a way that we might return to Him. This preparation covered centuries and millennia of time; it was defined by the law and prophets. The Way that God prepared for us to return to Him is in fact the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself taking human flesh and dwelling among us. Just as through Adam all men fell into sin and corruption and death, now through Jesus Christ all men were invited to rise out of that condemnation and live again according to the love and grace of God. The Way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored. We had again been chosen by God. But some refused, instead choosing to follow their own desires. If we have refused may we now return to the Lord with our whole heart!

### Our Holy Father's General Audience Vatican City State — December 7, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Today we begin a new series of catechesis dealing with Christian



hope. In these times, when evil often seems to have the upper hand, hope comforts us with the assurance of Christ's lordship, his victory over sin, and his constant presence in our midst. In this Advent season, we hear once more the great message of consolation spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "Comfort, comfort my people". The prophet tells us that God promises to bring his people home from their exile in a foreign land and that he desires that a way be prepared for him through the desert. This

summons to renewed faith and trust in God's saving power is also addressed to us. Saint John the Baptist, preaching in the desert of Judea, echoed these words as he prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. The Scriptures show us how Christ's birth was prepared for by men and women – like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah and Elizabeth – who never lost their trust in God's promises. May we imitate their hope, and await the coming of the Savior, who turns the desert of our lives into a garden of delight.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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  
 ..... (MR) Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:00 p.m.  
 December 20 ..... (NS) Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 6:00 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 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.  
 December 27 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 am.  
 ..... (NS) Pot-Luck Luncheon following the Divine Liturgy at Social Center.

## Commemoration of the Week — December 12 Feast of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The first apparition occurred on the morning of December 9, 1531, when a native Mexican peasant named Juan Diego saw a vision of a maiden at a place called the Hill of **Tepeyac**, which would become part of Villa de Guadalupe, a suburb of Mexico City. Speaking to Juan Diego in his native Nahuatl language (the language of the Aztec empire), the maiden identified herself as the Virgin Mary, and asked for a church to be built at that site in her honor. Juan Diego sought out the archbishop of Mexico City, to tell him what had happened. As the bishop did not believe Diego, on the same day, Juan Diego saw the Virgin Mary for a second time (the second apparition); she asked him to keep insisting. On Sunday, December 10, Juan Diego talked to archbishop for a second time



who instructed him to return to the Tepeyac Hill, and ask the lady for a miraculous sign to prove her identity. That same day the third apparition occurred when Diego returned to Tepeyac and, encountering the Virgin Mary reported the bishop's request for a sign; she consented to provide one on the following day (December 11). By Monday, December 11, however, Juan Diego's uncle Juan Bernardino had fallen sick and Juan Diego was obliged to attend to him. In the very early hours of Tuesday, December 12, Juan Bernardino's condition having deteriorated overnight, Juan Diego set out to Tlatelolco to get a priest to hear Juan Bernardino's confession and minister to him on his death-bed. In order to avoid being delayed by the Virgin and ashamed at having failed to meet her on the Monday as agreed, Juan Diego chose another route around the hill, but the Virgin intercepted him and asked where he was going (fourth apparition); Juan Diego explained what had happened and the Virgin gently chided him for not having had recourse to her. She assured him that Juan Bernardino had now recovered and she told him to gather flowers from the top of Tepeyac Hill, which was normally barren, especially in December. Juan followed her instructions and he found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico, blooming there. The Virgin arranged the flowers in Juan's tilma, or cloak, and when Juan Diego opened his cloak before archbishop Zumárraga on December 12, the flowers fell to the floor, and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. The next day, on December 13, Juan Diego found his uncle fully recovered, as the Virgin had assured him, and Juan Bernardino recounted that he too had seen her, at his bed-side (fifth apparition); that she had instructed him to inform the bishop of this apparition and of his miraculous cure; and that she had told him she desired to be known under the title of Guadalupe.

## General Announcements

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FORE-FATHERS CELEBRATED TODAY** — This is the Sunday that falls between December 11-17, the second Sunday before the Nativity. We



commemorate the **FOREFATHERS** of Christ according to the flesh who are remembered on this 4<sup>th</sup> **Sunday and 27<sup>th</sup> Day of the Philippian Fast**. All the great Fathers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elijah and Daniel, and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah, Joachim and Anne, Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist and The Theotokos. They lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18). *Let us keep company with Mary and Joseph on the journey to Bethlehem as we contemplate our place at the banquet with the Holy Fore-Fathers. Through prayer, abstinence, almsgiving of mercy, and frequent confession of sins, and attendance at Divine Liturgies we are empowered to follow the journey to this end.*

**2017 CHURCH CALENDARS AND CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX** —Your 2017 Church Calendars & Contribution Envelopes are ready for distribution. **Please look for your name and not your current number.** If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office.

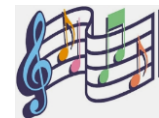


*The Church Calendars have still not arrived! Please do not use your 2017 until January!*

**EXTRA-CONFESSOR FOR THE HOLY MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION** — A special date and time have been set for the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation prior to Christmas. It will take place in **MR on Sunday, December 18, 2016 @ 3:00 p.m. & on the NS, Tuesday, December 20, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.** Our pastor is conscripting a priest-confessor for this purpose. Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins before Christmas! Prepare the Bethlehem of your soul and the manger of your heart for Our Lord's Holy Nativity. If you have not made a Confession of sins in many years, please do so at this time! You may, also, make your Confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T.



**ARCHIEPARCHIAL CHOIR "CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL"** — The AC invites you to share the spirit and joy of the Nativity season as they present "Christmas at the Cathedral." This annual choral event takes place **Sunday, December 18, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.** at the Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall. Following the sing-along finale, a hospitality reception with refreshments and Christmas treats will be held in the lower level of the Cathedral. Let us support the Choir, since many of our parishioners are members.



**CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER** — The Church cannot operate very well if it weren't for volunteers! To show appreciation for all who volunteered in some aspect of parish life throughout 2016, a **Parish Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township** will be held on **Friday, December 30, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.** This includes all Altar Servers, Ushers, Cantors, Readers, Office Personnel, Collection Counters, Church & Rectory Cleaners and Decorators, Altar Cover changers, Catechists, Radio Ministry, etc. A list is now located in the vestibule of the Church. *Final day for signing is Dec. 27.*