### Parish Offerings – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — July 2, 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 (\$2,842.75) YP (\$11)	\$2,853.75
Holy Days	491.00
Peter's Pence (\$10) Radio Ministry (\$50)	155.00
Votive Candles	150.00

\$3,649.75

Holy Ghost Church, Northside	ŕ
Regular Offering	\$457.00
Holy Days	60.00
Utilities (\$30) Improvement (\$55) Peter's Pence (\$10)	95.00
Spec. Don. (In mem of + Mike Sotak, Jr. by wife: Jane)	200.00
Votive Candles	. 45.30
	\$857.30

#### Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (40)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (82); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (38)

Independence Day (Jul. 4) — Mon., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (23)









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Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!

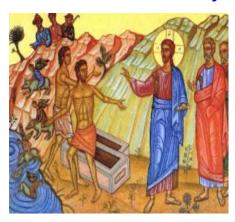


#### HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET **1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE**  McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136 PITTSBURGH. PA 15212

# THE 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 9, 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 Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

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).

July 9, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII. Number 28



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



### **Liturgical Services for the Week**

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

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

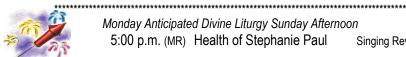
SUN., Jul 9

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Mazur Mother-In-Law: Elizabeth Petruna & Family (7th ann of passing)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Lucy Holesh

Dolores Lopushansky

(2nd ann of passing)



Monday Anticipated Divine Liturgy Sunday Afternoon

5:00 p.m. (MR) Health of Stephanie Paul

Singing Revilak Family

8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Anna Marie Demianczyk (birthday 7/12)

Wed, Jul 12

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr.

Niece: Debra & Florence Charochak

i found

real freedom

(4th ann of passing)

Anita Wolsko

Thrs. Jul 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Charles Wovchko



Fri, Jul 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Ondich

Carol Theiss

9:00 a.m. (NS) + Dorothy + Michael Holesh, Jr. Sister: Helen Holesh Marince 



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Hubal + Bradley Families

**Hubal Family** 

# **Sunday after Pentecost**

### **Fathers of the first Six Ecumenical Councils**

**SUN., Jul 16** 

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Lillian Buchko

Anita & Russell Sidun

(7th ann of passing 7/17)

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: Jul 9 - Albert Kovacs, John Kutchmark, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS; Jul 10 - Albert Kovacs, Jr.: Jul 11 - Dolores Kosko: Jul 12 - ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK, Christopher Lucas, Michael Muska; Jul 13 - Stacie Cifrulak, Michael Maslaney, Devin Michalism; Jul 14 - OLGA MANFREDO.

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Julia Wovchko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Susan Dragosh, Doris Naughton.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger. MASONIC VILLAGE (1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Preganz.

MARIAN MANOR (2695 Winchester Dr., Pgh, 15220): Irene Bednar, MICHAEL BARBUSH, 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. CARING HEIGHTS (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Margaret Beliunas.

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

Q. Is it a more serious sin to receive Communion unworthily than to commit the unconfessed mortal sin? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: To receive communion unworthily is a form of sacrilege. It would be committing another grievous sin in addition to the mortal sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church: To respond to this invitation we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment. St. Paul urges us to examine our conscience: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before coming to Communion (1385).



### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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



July 9 — July 15, 2017

(MR): Health & Welfare of Hubal Family

offered by Hubal Family

Health & Welfare of Monsignor Peter Tay (birthday 7/7)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Joan Senchyshyn

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



### **McKees Rocks Announcements**

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE I** — This is the first announcement of the upcoming marriage of *Justin Paul Paronish (Holy Ghost Church)* and *Stacie Ann Cifrulak (Holy Ghost Church)* on Saturday, July 29, 2017. If anyone knows why these individuals cannot contract marriage, please call the rectory office and speak to the pastor.

### Holy Ghost, Northside

**INDEPENDENCE DAY RAFFLE TODAY** — To help subsidize the removal of honey bee colony in a safe and humane manner from the church roof, we will be having a raffle. An estimated cost is app. \$450--\$800. The entrance where the bees are setting up their habitat will them be filled-in. Pittsburgh's B-Control is setting up a container near the hive to draw the Bees in. It will be an approximately two month process at which the bees will be safely removed and transplanted to another location. The drawing will follow today's 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Tickets are still available.

### **Pray for Terminally III Baby Charlie Gard**

(Abridged Article by Catholic Apologist Jimmy Akins – July 6, 2017) {full article: www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/pray-for-terminally-ill-baby-charlie-gard}

Charlie Gard is an eleven-month-old baby in England. He has a rare genetic disorder known as mitochondrial DNA depletion syndrome. According to press accounts, Charlie is terminally ill at this point. His parents have raised more than \$1,000,000 to try an experimental treatment to help him, but hospital officials—backed by British and European courts—have forbidden his parents to take him from the London hospital where he currently is. Officials have also forbidden his parents to take him home to die. According to their public statements, they believe that Charlie's condition is too grave and that the proposed medical treatments are not in his interest (meaning they would be too burdensome, too likely to be ineffective, or both). Consequently, rather than undertake the treatments desired by his parents, hospital authorities state that it would be in Charlie's best interests to allow him to die. They therefore propose discontinuing the things keeping him alive. The Church does not have a teaching addressing Charlie's specific condition, but it has articulated principles that address situations like this in general. The usual obligation to use medical procedures to extend life does not apply when the treatments would be "heroic" or disproportional to the good to be achieved. In other words, if the treatments would be too burdensome, too unlikely to succeed, or both, they are not obligatory. Experimental treatments like the one proposed for Charlie typically are riskier than approved treatments—commonly involving both a higher burden on the patient (e.g., more side effects) and lower chances of success. Because of this, such experimental treatments generally are not morally obligatory. Ordinarily, a patient would speak for himself regarding whether he wishes to receive such treatments. However, in this case the patient is a baby and cannot do so. Therefore, the parents—by natural law—are the logical ones to make the decision. Only if the parents are incapable of making a rational decision would it be warranted for others to step in and make the decision in their place. The refusal to let the parents take baby Charlie home to die (as if palliative care couldn't be given in a home environment) only twists the knife. The way the situation has played out, it looks like an Orwellian, faceless bureaucracy is determined to kill this child against the reasonable will of the parents. That bodes ill for all of us, given the statist and anti-life trends in Western culture. Pope Francis last Sunday expressed hope that the desire of 10-month-old Charlie Gard's parents "to accompany and care for their own child to the end" will be respected.

### **5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

#### Demons in today's Holy Gospel — Read Matthew 8:28-9:1

St. John Chrysostom says about this account, "Look at what the demons did when they were cast out of the men." They entered into the swine, and caused the swine to run violently



down to their own death. St. John says that is what the demons want to do to each one of us. They want to cause us to run violently down to our death. He says, "Do not be deceived. You have many foes. Just because you can't see them with your natural eyes does not mean they are not there. Just because you are not aware of them every second of every day does not mean they do not follow you around, because they do. They huddle around you." What they seek is to enter you so that they may cause you to rush

violently to your own death. This is the nature of our spiritual struggle. In 1 Peter 5:8, St. Peter says that our adversary the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." If we are going to fight the spiritual war, if we are going to live out this Christian life, then we must be aware every second of every day that the demons are there, and that they are looking for just one opening, just one second when we are not paying attention, one look that is not carefully guarded, one movement of anger, jealousy, or envy in our heart. The demons look for opportunities to destroy us. The demons never take a day off. But very often those thoughts are suggestions of the evil one. Satan and the demons are very skillful at suggesting thoughts to us and then leaving so guickly that we don't see that it was the demons that placed those thoughts in our head. They're very skillful at lining up all the facts to prove the thought. We beat Satan and the demons with the name of Jesus. It's a wonderful image of Satan and the demons in this Gospel passage, where the demons flex their muscles and scream at Jesus, "What have we to do with You?" The name of Jesus is more powerful than any demon. The name of Jesus strikes fear into the heart of Satan and all his minions. That is why the name of Jesus is to be on our lips with every breath. If we center our thoughts on the name of Jesus, then Satan will not get us with any other thoughts. That's why the Fathers say that we descend with our mind into our heart, and we guard our mind with our heart, because the name of Jesus is our protection: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." When Jesus says, "Go," the demons flee.

#### The Devil has not Full Power

"Among the angelic powers the chief of the terrestrial order, the one to whom God



had entrusted the task of looking after the earth, was not evil by nature, he had not received any trace of evil from his Creator. He was good. However, he did not maintain the light and the honor that God had given him. By a deliberate act of his own free will he rebelled against the Creator. He turned his face away from goodness and fell into evil. Evil is in fact merely the absence of good, as darkness is the absence of light. A host of angels placed under his command followed him in the fall. Despite their angelic nature, they also freely plunged from

goodness down to evil and became wicked. The devils cannot do anything against us without God's permission. But with God's permission they are powerful. All wickedness, all the passions are inspired by them but listen: God allows them to suggest sin to a person, but they cannot force him to do it. We ourselves are responsible for accepting or rejecting their seductive suggestions." --- By St. John Damascene - The True Faith, 2, 4 (PG94,873ff.)

#### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July 20 Simple Holy Day: Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles.
(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m. — All vehicles in the lot please!
July 27 Byzantine Catholic Family Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin.
August 1 Commencement of the Savorial Fast (Spasovka).
August 6 Feast of the Holy Transfiguration – Blessing of grapes and other fruits.
August 12-13 Blessing of Students and Teachers for the new Academic School Year following weekend DL.
August 13
August 14 Vigil of the Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 7:00
pm — Holy Day of Obligation.
August 15 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 9:00 am; (NS)
0.00 a and Hala Davi of Ohlimetica

6:00 p.m. — Holy Day of Obligation.

August 20 .......... Annual Parish Picnic, Robinson Clever Road, beginning @ 1:00 pm.

August 20 ...... Annual Parish Picnic, Robinson Clever Road, beginning @ 1:00 pm. August 24 ...... Archieparchal Servers Faith & Fun Day (cf. MR Announcements).

# Saint of the Week — July 14 The Holy Apostle Aquila, one of the Seventy

Saint Aquila, Apostle of the 70: It is possible that he was a disciple of the Apostle Paul, a native of Pontus and a Jew, living in the city of Rome with his wife Priscilla. During the reign of



the emperor Claudius (41-54) all the Jews were banished from Rome, so Aquilla and his wife were compelled to leave. They settled in Corinth. A short while later, the holy Apostle Paul arrived there from Athens preaching the Gospel. Having made the acquaintance of Aquila, he began to live at his house and labored together with him, making tents. Having received Baptism from the Apostle Paul, Aquila and Priscilla became his devoted and zealous disciples. They accompanied the apostle to Ephesus. The Apostle Paul instructed them to

continue the preaching of the Gospel at Ephesus, and he himself went to Jerusalem, in order to be present for the feast of Pentecost. At Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla heard the bold preaching of a newcomer from Alexandria, the Jew Apollos. He had been instructed in the fundamentals of the Faith, but knew only the baptism of John the Forerunner. They called him over and explained more precisely about the way of the Lord. After the death of the emperor Claudius, Jews were permitted to return to Italy, and Aquila and Priscilla then returned to Rome. The Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Romans recalls his faithful disciples, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who put forth their heads for my soul, whom I do not alone thank, but also all the Church of the Gentiles and the church of their household" (Rom. 16: 3-4). St Aquila did not dwell long in Rome: the Apostle Paul made him a bishop in Asia. St Aquila zealously labored at preaching the Gospel in Asia, Achaia and Heraklia. He converted pagans to Christ, he confirmed newly-converted Christians in the faith, he established presbyters and destroyed idols. St Priscilla constantly assisted him in the apostolic work. St Aquila ended his life a martyr: pagans murdered him. According to the Tradition of the Church, St Priscilla was killed together with him.

## **General Announcements**

**KENNYWOOD PARK: BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY** — Special discounted tickets are now available from GCU Secretary-Treasurer, Steve Puluka (412) 897-4650. Seniors (55+): \$14.00; for everyone else: \$24.00.

Super Senior (70+): \$9.99. All tickets include entry into the Park and All-Day Ride. Byzantine Catholic Fun Day is slated for **Thursday, July 27, 2017.** Deadline for these discounted tickets is JULY 10. Please make checks payable to "GCU-Kennywood." No Cash, please. Tickets are also available for the Luncheon Buffet at a cost of \$15.00 (ages 11+); Jr. Luncheon \$8.00 (ages 3-



10); and no charge ages 2 & under. You may phone him at (412) 897-4650. Come join in the fun and set the day aside. *Deadline for these discounted tickets is today, JULY* 9



SAVE THE DATE: ALTAR BOY FUN DAY FOURTHCOMING — Mark your calendar for Thursday, August 24, 2017 and get ready for another great day of Fun! Open to all Altar Boys (elementary through college), this exciting day sponsored by the Vocations Office is filled with tons of awesome activities around Pittsburgh to thank you for volunteering your time and service to the Church. Registration will take

place at the school gym at 9:15 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy. After a lunch we will depart to the Carnegie Science Center. We will be attending a mid-afternoon 4:05 p.m. Pirate Baseball Game against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Phone the church office to register (412) 771-3324.

#### AREA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL NEXT WEEKEND — A three

day "Food and Music Festival" will be held at St. Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, and Munhall from **July 14** - **16**, **2017**. Admission is free. There will also be games of chance, Bingo, Basket Raffle, Raffles and Carnival games. See the brochure in the narthex. You may also visit them on line: www.steliasmunhallpa.weebly.com/st-elias-festival.html.



#### SUMMER IS NOT A TIME TO VACATION FROM WORSHIPPING GOD — Now that



Summer is here many will be vacationing. Please remember to keep the worship of God in your plans. The first Precept of the Church is to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. *This does not exclude vacation time!* The place to worship God is at the Divine Liturgy. He is most kind and merciful, sustaining and gifting us in all that we have and need. A

voluntarily absence without serious reason makes one guilty of mortal sin, and unable to approach Holy Communion until the sinful neglect is confessed in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. If you know that where you are traveling that there is no Catholic Church, please inform the Pastor so that a dispensation may be considered. You can download an app on your cell phone called "Mass Times" and find the nearest Byzantine, Roman, Maronite Rite, etc. Catholic Church to where you are staying.

**AMAZON PRIME DAY** — When you #StartWithaSmile on #PrimeDay. Amazon donates to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mt. St. Macrina on Tuesday, July 11. Shop for great deals at *smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1053502*.