

Parish Offerings – 25th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov. 26, 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 (\$2,050) YP (\$35)	\$2,085.00
Holy Days (\$199) Christmas (\$40) Thanksgiving (\$262)	481.00
Christmas Décor	100.00
Votive Candles	120.05
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	\$2,786.05

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$382.20
Holy Days (\$5) Christmas (\$40) Thanksgiving (\$5)	50.00
Christmas Décor (\$3) Utilities (\$30)	33.00
Votive Candles	50.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$515.20

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (46)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (80); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)



The problem with the rich young ruler was not that he had riches but rather that the riches had him.

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
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



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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!



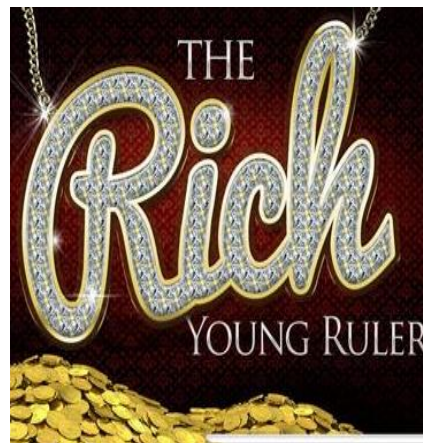
Lodge 390 offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Marge (412) 331-3577

This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office (412) 771-3324

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — December 3, 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 Randy Baden (412) 973-1085 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 3, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 49



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

26th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 3 (19) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Jean Malis Noyes Parents: Mary & Steve Malis
(14th ann of passing)

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

Mon, Dec 4 (20) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Cifrulak + Kulka Families Kathy & John Kulka
Concelebrant intention: + Eleanor Kapko (40 day of passing) Michael Maslaney

Tue, Dec 5 (21) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Thomas E. Ray, Jr. (birthday 12/4) + Esther Kallop

Feast of Our Holy Father, Nicholas the Wonder-Worker

Patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church — Mirovanije

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

WED, DEC 6 (22) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Nicholas Moyta Sister: Martha Moyta, OSBM

THRS, Dec 7 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Lubas (4th ann of passing 12/9) Bea Stempkowski

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Solemn Feast: Pure Conception of St. Anne — Patroness of Our Country — Mirovanije

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

FRI, Dec 8 (24) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Bishop Andrew Pataki (6th ann of pass) & + Fr. John Kasarda (9th ann of pass)

Sat., Dec 9 (25) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Stanley Lubinski (1st ann of passing 11/9) Anonymous

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

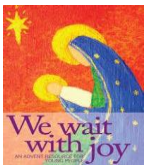
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Ann Marks Nancy & Michael Ferrell

27th Sunday after Pentecost

4th Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 10 (26) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Lorinc Joan Senchyshyn



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 5 – Lee Feldman; Dec 9 – Alice Sejka, Daniel Skreptach.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, MARY SAHAYDA, Alice Sejka, Millie Sotak, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, 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.

FAIR OAKS ASSISTED LIVING (2200 W. Liberty Ave., Pgh, 15226): ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK.

LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): William Zavidny.

CARING HEIGHTS (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Agnes Rosko.

MANOR CARE (1848 Greentree Road., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): EVELYN VENTO.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Can you be Catholic and pro-life if you support another person's choice to abort, the reasoning being that we should not impose our values on another person? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** To remind someone of something that is important is not imposing one's values on that person. By revealing himself to us, God has not imposed his will on us. He has given us great freedom by which we can reject him and all that he has revealed. But if he refrained from revealing himself to us, we would not have the freedom to choose to follow him. To fail to remind someone that abortion is the taking of life from an innocent human being can be robbing that person of the freedom to choose life. Further, to help someone to take innocent life is to be partly responsible for the taking of that life.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

December 3 — December 9, 2017

(MR): **In memory of Nicholas Kapko** (birthday 11/27)

offered by Dgtr: + Claudia & George Verner

(NS): **In memory of Elizabeth Schaffer**

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Sister: A. Velma Seman

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR LESS FORTUNATE AREA CHILDREN — GCU Lodge 390 is, once again, holding this fraternal activity to help area children who may not be getting much for Christmas. This project is the ANGEL TREE and is 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 name and 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 next **Sunday, December 10**. Children from Holy Family Social Services and Family Foundation will distribute these gifts 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 spear-heading this project.



PHILIPPIN FAST PIROHI SALES PAUSE THIS WEEKEND — We are starting up again this week. Remaining sales are December 8 & 15. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, and/or by phone on Wednesdays only from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. We will only be making a limited amount under this continued format. Eat-ins welcomed. Place your Christmas orders now.



DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE FOR THREE WEEKS — In our love and compassion for the less fortunate, during this season of giving, we are collecting and dispersing nonperishable food items in time for Christmas to the less fortunate in our area. Last day will be December 17. Please bring non-expired items to the Church and place them in the provided boxes. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092.



CHURCH DECORATING FORTHCOMING — We will begin decorating the Church for Christmas tomorrow, **December 4, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.** Please make an effort to come and give a helping hand. We're going to need muscle power for the heavy work of setting up the trees.



Northside Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing at his home of **Russell Dipple, 67**, of Allison Park, PA formerly of Brighton Heights on Sunday, November 26, 2017. He was the husband of Patricia (Motoka). They were long-time members of our Holy Ghost Church prior to moving to Allison Park a few years ago. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, North Side. A Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Friday, December 1 at St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church, Gibsonia followed by the interment followed at Allegheny County Memorial Park, Allison Park. Our parish offers its most sincere condolences to Patricia & Family and prayerful solicitude for Russell's immortal soul. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, to your servant, Russell, and remember him forever! *Vichaja Jemu Pamjat!*



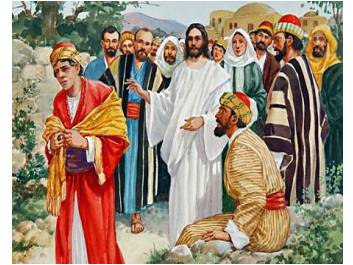
Special Confession Times Before Christmas!

See article under General Announcements for details!

Meditation on today's Gospel

Are we willing to RENOUNCE all that keeps us from God?
Luke 18:18-27

Once a rich young man asked Jesus what he had to do to be saved. Our Lord answered him in two stages: He told him that first it was necessary to keep the commandments, then to sell his riches and follow Him. The foundation of a Christian life, therefore, is the keeping of the commandments and its perfection is our renunciation of anything that would keep us apart from Christ. Ideally, the life of a Christian progresses from observance of laws to perfect conformity to God's will through union with Him. For most, however, throughout our whole life we will have to struggle to keep the commandments. We should not turn away from the task sadly as did the rich young man (Lk 18:23), for although in this life we may never completely integrate the two poles of the Christian life, the beginnings of faith and perfect union with Christ, it has been accomplished for us through baptism and Communion by God's power and grace. Our commitment is to freely accept this gift of God to which Christ invites each of us. As he promises, "You will live in my love if you keep my commandments" (Jn. 15:10).



Metropolitan Archeparchy's Important Upcoming ASSEMBLY 2018 — 3rd & Final ANNOUNCEMENT

In the July 2017 issue of the Byzantine Catholic World, Archbishop Skurla announced the 2018 Assembly: CONCERN FOR OUR FUTURE. This Assembly will be held on May 29 – 31, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA. Six themes were identified for the Assembly: 1) Diversity, 2) Technology and Social Media, 3) Mixed Marriages, 4) Education, 5) Social Activities, and 6) Outreach to members who have left the church.

To prepare for the Assembly, the Commission was charged to collect information on the above Themes from various sources including the clergy, laity, seminarians, parishioners and others. At the May 2017 Clergy Days, questions for each Theme were presented to the clergy. Working in small groups, rich ideas were generated. **Now we are reaching out to the parishes to ask the same questions.** The responses from Clergy Days (attached) are being shared with the parishes with a request for the priests to share the Clergy Days responses with their parish members, to discuss, identify, and gather additional ideas for each Theme which may have a positive impact on the vitality of our churches. The six Themes and the questions that were presented to the clergy are provided for the discussion groups at the parishes. Upon receiving the responses from the parishes, the Commission will review all the ideas and compile a second list which will be shared with all parishes. Parish communities will use this information to decide which responses will be the best suited for implementation at their parish. At the **2018 Assembly** opportunities will be provided for the participants to share information with one another regarding the best practices that have impacted the growth and vitality of their church. The priests from each parish will send responses from their parish by December 10, 2017 to the Chancery. **PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THIS SURVEY! Place your survey in a #10 white envelope and place it in the collection basket. Additional Copies are available in the Narthex and Side Vestibule.**

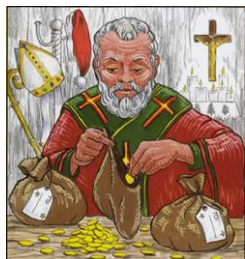
**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4	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 8	Solemn Feast of Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
December 10	Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students. (MR) Extra Confessions for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 3:00 p.m.
December 16	Installation of new St. Aquilina Ministry at Divine Liturgy. Slavjane Christmas Party following the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy.
December 17	Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.
December 22	(MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. (NS) Extra Confessions for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
December 23	Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 4:00 p.m.
December 24	Regular Sunday Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 11:00 a.m. *****
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 262 nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.
December 27 3 rd Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen DL – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
December 29 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Golden Corral @ 6:00 p.m.
December 30 Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 4:00 p.m.
December 31 Regular Sunday Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 11:00 a.m.
January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 am.

Saint of the Week — December 6

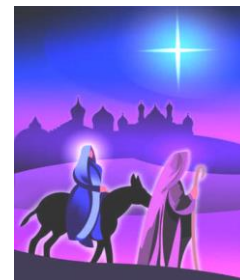
Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, the Wonder-Worker



This glorious saint, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of the city of Patara in Lycia. Since he was the only son bestowed on them by God, the parents returned the gift to God by dedicating their son to Him. **St. Nicholas** learned of the spiritual life from his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand is doing (Mt 6:3). By God's wondrous providence, Nicholas was chosen as the archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. During the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian, he was cast into prison, but even there he instructed the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea [325] and, out of great zeal for the truth, struck the heretic Arius with his hand. For this act he was removed from the Council and from his archiepiscopal duties, until the Lord Christ Himself and the Holy Theotokos appeared to several of the chief hierarchs and revealed their approval of Nicholas. A defender of God's truth, this wonderful saint was ever bold as a defender of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from an undeserved sentence of death. Merciful, truthful, and a lover of justice, he walked among the people as an angel of God. He appeared both in dreams and in person to those who called upon him, and he helped them easily and speedily, whether close at hand or far away. In old age he became ill for a short time and entered into the rest of the Lord, after a life full of labor and very fruitful toil, to rejoice eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles and to glorify his God. He entered into rest on December 6, 343. *He is the Patron of our Byzantine-Ruthenian (Rusyn) Catholic Church.*

General Announcements

THE 3rd SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS — We continue this minor penitential period travelling with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem preparing ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. Not only prior to Christmas but always through our earthly pilgrimage, we must carry Him reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. It is through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings, frequent confession of sins, works of virtue and additional participation in Divine Liturgies and Holy Communion that we accomplish this end. *Together as a parish, let us collectively practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (required)*



for the intention for the return of our beloved back to the fullness of the Faith. The color **PURPLE** is worn as a sign of **ROYALTY** of the King to be born in Bethlehem.

THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THIS WEEK — The soul of the Virgin Mary whom God had chosen from all eternity to be the Mother in the flesh of the Incarnate Word was created full of grace and free from original sin, united to a body formed

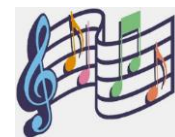


according to the laws of nature through the operation of love of her parents, Joachim and Anne. This privilege, accepted throughout the centuries, was officially proclaimed as a dogma by Pope Pius IX in the year 1854. It is known in the Catholic Church as the Immaculate Conception. Come join us as we honor the Holy Theotokos's Most Pure Conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne this week (cf. liturgical schedule).

INVITATION EXTENDED FOR SLAVJANE CHRISTMAS PARTY — Everyone is cordially invited to this following Christmas event in two weeks: **SLAVJANE CHRISTMAS PARTY** at the McKees Rocks Parish School, lower level, on **Saturday, December 16, 2017** following the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$10.00 (Adults); Children \$8.00 (K-12). You may purchase them by contacting parishioners, Cindy Saber (412) 264-5667 or Dean Poloka (412) 887-9351. Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks is the home base for Slavjane, so let us support them! Last day for tickets!



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 17, 2017 @ 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.



SPECIAL RAFFLE TICKETS ALMOST SOLD OUT — Over the past two weekends all of our Byzantine Catholic Churches were asked to make available special raffle tickets to support our Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary. **THANK YOU** to all who came forward and purchased tickets for this note-worthy charity in the Spirit of St. Nicholas. Hope that you win!