

Parish Offerings – 26th Sunday after Pentecost – Dec. 3, 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 (\$2,932.50) YP (\$25)	\$2,957.50
Holy Days (\$199) Christmas (\$5) Thanksgiving (\$41)	245.00
Christmas Décor (\$419) Radio Ministry (\$50)	469.00
Archdiocesan Collection (\$1) Peter’s Pence (\$1) Poor (\$1)	3.00
Votive Candles	109.90
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	\$3,784.40

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$625.00
Holy Days (\$123) Christmas (\$95) Thanksgiving (\$1)	219.00
Christmas Décor (\$101) Utilities (\$25) Improvement (\$55)	181.00
Votive Candles (\$36.50) Poor (\$1)	37.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,062.50

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (41)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (95); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (36)

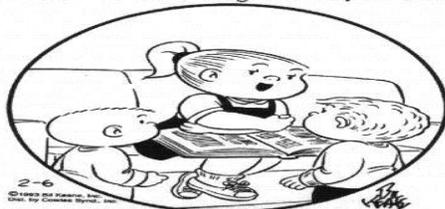
Feast of St. Nicholas (Dec. 6) — (MR) 9:00 am (11); (NS) 6:00 pm (15)

Feast of the Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 am (13); (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)

OUR MISSION: TO FIND



SOMEONE TO BLESS TODAY!!



“Heaven is a great big hug that lasts forever.”

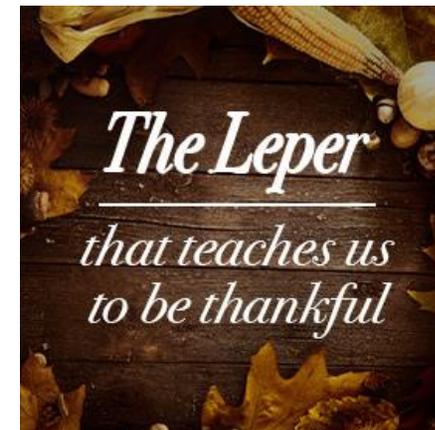
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

4th Sunday of the Philippian Fast — December 10, 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.

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

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 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; 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 10, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 50



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By



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

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



Mon, Dec 11 (27) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Florence "Flo" Szal (birthday 12/8) Michael Maslaney

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

Tue, Dec 12 (28) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Richard F. Zula Mary Ann & Don Kostrubanic

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 13 (29) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ilona + Andrew Margo, Sr. Dgr: + Elizabeth Mross

Thrs, Dec 14 (30) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William S. Luchovick (birthday 12/18) Anonymous

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 15 (31) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy Son: Kurt
(15th ann of passing 12/16)

Sat., Dec 16 (32) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak, Jr + Michael Sotak, Sr. Jane R. Sotak
+ Mary Sotak & Michael Sotak's + Sister

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of the Old Testament Forefathers

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

Sunday of the Old Testament Holy Fathers

5th Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 17 (33) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Cantor: John Fejka Dgr: Susie Fejka
(9th ann of passing 12/16)

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

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuнас, 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, Shirley Yanosko.

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.

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

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it obligatory to go to the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, which this year falls on a Monday, if someone has gone Dec. 24 (Sunday) in the morning? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Yes, there are two Divine Liturgy obligations, the Sunday obligation and the Christmas obligation. A person cannot fulfill both obligations with one Divine Liturgy. In order to fulfill a Divine Liturgy obligation, we must attend either on the day of the feast or on the evening preceding. Therefore, a Sunday morning Divine Liturgy could not possibly qualify as satisfying the Divine Liturgy obligation the following day, since it is in the morning.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

December 10 — December 16, 2017

(MR): In memory of Cantor John Fejka (9th ann of pass 12/16)

offered by Dgr: Susie Fejka

(NS): In memory of Betty & Jay Mowery

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Dgr: Barbara "Babs" Mowery

(NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **John Jumba, 83**, formerly of Sheredan on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2017. He is survived by his two sons, Robert and Joseph. He is related to the Jumba Family of our parish. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. A Funeral Panachida was celebrated on Friday, Nov. 24 at the funeral home. Interment took place on Monday, Nov 27 at Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township, PA. Our parish offers its most sincere condolences to the Jumba Family and prayerful solicitude for John's immortal soul. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, to your servant, John, and remember him forever! *Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!*



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. 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.



PHILIPPIN FAST PIROHI SALES TERMINATE THIS WEEK — This will be the last week of Pirohi Sales. 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. This is the last week to place your Christmas orders.

DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE FOR TWO MORE 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.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."
Matthew 25:35



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 **Friday, December 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** and will continue until they are finished. Please make a good Confession for Christmas! Confessions are always welcomed prior to the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Stand in line by the confessional as a sign that you wish to make a Confession.

SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD TO OUR RETIRED AND ILL PRIESTS — Although you may not know them, they will surely appreciate a remembrance: (1) Former pastor, **Fr. Robert Karl**, 235 Logan Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044; (2) **Fr. Edward Lucas**, Woodhaven, 2400 McGinley Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15146; (3) **Archpriest Dennis Bodga**, UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, 3471 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Let them know that you are from Holy Ghost Church.

Meditation on today's Gospel

Showing Gratitude for healing the leprosy of Sin!

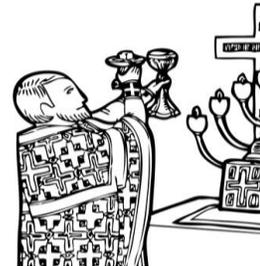
Like 17:12-19

Luke observes that the one grateful leper "was a Samaritan" (v.16). Why are no observant Jews – the chosen people of God, the people of the convent – among the grateful? No, the grateful leper is the one who is doubly outcast. He is both a leper and a Samaritan. This "Untouchable" is the one who stops to praise God in Jesus' healing. Luke has given us a picture of another "good Samaritan" (cf. 10:25-27). The story foreshadows the coming of the kingdom of God to the Gentiles (cf. Also "this foreigner" in v.18), a major theme throughout both Luke and Acts (e.g., 24-47 and Acts 1:8). In the cleansing of these lepers God was acting through Jesus, and so God must be thanked through Jesus. As a form of prayer, Christian gratitude must be offered through Jesus Christ. The salvation of the grateful leper represents more than physical healing. The lepers' salvation reflects his awareness through faith of God's gracious presence. As Christians we are called to follow the example of this grateful leper and let the grace of gratitude transform our daily lives.



Our Holy Father's General Audience Vatican City State — November 29, 2017 On the Eucharistic Sacrifice

... The Mass (Divine Liturgy) is not merely a remembrance, no. It is more: it is making present what happened 20 centuries ago. The Eucharist always leads us to the pinnacle of the salvific action of God: the Lord Jesus, making himself Bread broken for us, pours out upon us his mercy and his love, as he did on the Cross, thus renewing our hearts, our existence and our way of relating to him and to our brothers and sisters. The Second Vatican Council said: "As often as the sacrifice of the cross[,] in which Christ our Passover was sacrificed, is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried on" (Dogmatic Constitution Lumen Gentium, 3). Every celebration of the Eucharist is a ray of that never setting sun that is the Risen Jesus. **Taking part in the Mass (Divine Liturgy), particularly on Sunday, means entering the victory of the Risen One, being illuminated by his light, warmed by his compassion.** Through the Eucharistic celebration the Holy Spirit makes us participants in the divine life that is able to transfigure our whole mortal being. In his passage from death to life, from time to eternity, the Lord Jesus also draws us with him to experience the Passover. In the Mass (Divine Liturgy) we celebrate Passover. We, during Mass (Divine Liturgy), are with Jesus, who died and is Risen, and he draws us forth to eternal life. In the Mass (Divine Liturgy) we unite with him. Rather, Christ lives in us and we live in himIndeed, his Blood frees us from death and from the fear of death. It frees us not only from the dominion of physical death, but from the spiritual death which is evil, sin, which catches us each time we fall victim to our own sin or that of others. Thus our life becomes polluted; it loses beauty; it loses meaning; it withers.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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 26 2nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.
 December 27 3rd 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.

Commemoration of the Week — December 12 Feast of the Apparition 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

THE 4th SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS — We continue



travelling with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem preparing ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. 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.*

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.



A NOTE OF



GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO DECORATED THE CHURCH — A special thank you is extended to all who came to decorate the Church this past week at both parishes. We are always in need of volunteers especially in decorating the Church for this special time of the year. Remember that all of us reap its benefits. The Church looks beautiful! We now await the Christmas flowers. We could not have done it without you!

EXTRA-CONFESSOR FOR THE HOLY MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION — This afternoon in **MR, December 10, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m. with Fr. Leonard, O.F.M. and Fr. Firko. Next week on the NS, Friday, December 22, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. with Fr. Firko.** 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. **Please use the Confession guide located in the narthex and side vestibule to aid you.**



A LOOK AHEAD CONCERNING CHRISTMAS EVE — As you know Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Many of you have questions concerning the traditional Strict Abstinence



(no meat & no dairy products) which is normally observed. However, since it is a Sunday, it is a recommended Simple Abstinence day (no meat) as we prepare our Holy Supper. The festive foods are reserved following the Christmas Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, and a worthy reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Come O Jesus Our Savior, Redeem and Save Us!