

## Parish Offerings – Sunday of Man Born Blind — May 6, 2018

“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 (\$2,234) YP (\$11)	\$2,245.00
Pentecost (\$5) Holy Days (\$30)	35.00
Seminary	392.00
Votive Candles (\$160.50) Coffee Social (\$24)	184.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,856.50

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$478.00
Holy Days	55.00
Utilities (\$1) Improvement (\$50)	60.00
Seminary	20.00
Votive Candles	41.00

### Church Attendance Last Week \$654.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (57)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (69); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (37)

Ascension Holy Day of Obligation — Wed, May 9 (MR) 7:00 p.m. (18);

Thurs, May 10 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (37); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (19)

#### The Church has faithfully passed on the belief in three persons in one God.

At the first ecumenical council in Nicaea (AD 325), St. Athanasius strongly defended the doctrine of the Trinity against the heresy of Arianism.

An ecumenical council is an official gathering of the bishops of the world under the direction of the pope.



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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

## SUNDAY OF 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUMENCIL COUNCIL

### Ascension Postfestive — Annual Mother's Day

May 13, 2018



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](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 a.m.; (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 Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 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

Let us honor today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, namely the God-mantled Fathers who speaking of divine things sang in the midst of the Church a hymn in unison, teaching that the Trinity is one, not differing in substance or Godhead, refuting Arius and defending the true faith. They always intercede with the Lord to have mercy on our souls (Great Vespers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council Fathers)

May 13, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 19



**Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen!**  
**Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!**  
**Liturgical Services for the Week**



Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUM. COUNCIL</b>			
<b>Postfestive of the Ascension — 7<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday — Mother's Day</b>			
<b>SUN., May 13</b>	9:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare (birthday 5/6)	Helen Hopey
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
Mon, May 14	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare	Paul Siwulich
Tues, May 15	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Fejka (birthday)	Dgtr: Susie
Wed, May 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Maletz	Son: Bob & Martha Maletz
Thrs, May 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Amelia + Frank T. Firko (ann. of passings)	Family

## Final Day of the Ascension Feast

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

Fri, May 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Judy A. Hopey	Dorothy Mueller
	6:00 p.m. (MR)	Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary	

## Fifth & Final Universal All Souls Saturday Vigil

6:00 p.m. (NS) All Souls w/Reading of Hramoty

## FIFTH & FINAL UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat., May 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/Reading of Hramoty



\*\*\*\*\*  
 Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Evelyn Squires Bro: Steve & Dolores Kosko

## SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

### Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast — MIROVANJE

<b>SUN., May 20</b>	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna Spontak	Son: Robert & Joyce
		(14 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/22)	

# 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*

**May 13** — Ferdinand (Eric) Stehle; **May 15** — Adam Kacsur, Karen Krempasky, George Mosko; **May 16** — Loretta Keller; **May 17** — John Oslick, Anita Sidun; **May 18** — Daniel Rowe; **May 19** — MARYANN CONTI.

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, Margaret Belinas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, John Marks, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Alice Sejka, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, Julia Wovchko, SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

**MAPLEWOOD PC HOME** (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.  
**HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER** (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.  
**BRIGHTON REHAB & WELLNESS CENTER** (246 Friendship Circle, Beaver, PA 15009): Mary Susan Dragosh.

**MASONIC VILLAGE** (1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Preganz.

**MARIAN MANOR** (2695 Winchester Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): Irene Bednar.

**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.

**LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** (1028 Benton Ave., PGH 15212): MARY SAHAYDA

**VETERANS HOSPITAL** (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

**THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE** (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): John Marks.

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

**Q.** If we cannot do an intrinsically evil act to accomplish some good end, how can we ever justify war? Isn't "just war theory" that very thing? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** In a just war, there is some legitimate self-defense or some legitimate defense of another who needs our help against an aggressor. And this defense is sanctioned by some legitimate authority that has care of the whole community. These are actions that are intrinsically good, not evil. To be sure, such defense can lead to actions that cause some physical evil in order to prevent an injustice, but this is often necessary. Thus, to kill someone who is attacking innocent people is not murder. Even Our Lord resorted to violence to correct the moneychangers in the temple, and I'm sure the whip he wielded hurt!

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

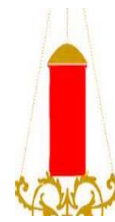
Continue to burn before the real presence of our Lord, God & Savior Jesus

**May 13 — May 19, 2018**

(MR): **In memory of Olga & Joseph Goyda**  
 offered by Dgtr: Mary Ann

(NS): **In memory of Margaret "Peggy" Krulac**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018





## McKees Rocks Announcements

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES LAST WEEK** — Renewing their Baptismal Promises, making their First Confession and received the Holy Eucharist together at the Saturday afternoon Vigil Divine Liturgy on **May 5, 2018** were **Olivia Faith Harsh (R)** and **ZiZi Vo Mary Safranko (L)**. They reaffirmed their baptismal promises and in love serve their Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ! Our parish offers its most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes to them on this most important event in their lives. May God grant to Olivia and ZiZi many happy and blessed years!



**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Norma E. (Barbini) Lucas, 80**, of Girard, OH, on Thursday, April 26, 2018. She was the sister-in-law of parishioner, George (Peggy) Lucas, Aunt of parishioner, Andrea (Steven) Usowski, and Great-Aunt of their children, Madelyn, Alaina and Emma. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 30 at St. Rose Roman Rite Church, Girard, OH. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Blackstone Funeral Home, Girard, followed by the Interment at the Girard City Cemetery. Our parish offers its most sincere condolences and prayerful support to the Lucas-Usowski Families. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, Norma, and remember her forever! 'Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'



**SPECIAL CLASSES CONTINUE MONDAY EVENING** — Special Classes continue for those wishing to know the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church and to increase one's knowledge of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church. This 6<sup>th</sup> of a 12 week format presents awareness to anyone who is non-Catholic and for those who are Catholic of another Rite, the important Traditions of the Catholic Church and to increase their understanding of our Rite. This series will continue **Monday evening, May 6, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.** in Church Basement Library area classroom.

**GRATITUDE TO OUR SWEATER DONORS** — A thank you message from Deb Charochak: "Thank you for making the lives of the residents at Caring Heights warmer in more ways than one. Your caring and generosity have warmed their hearts. They are truly grateful." God bless your charity!



**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS** — Much gratitude is extended to all those who sacrifice two hours of their time and muscle strength to bring some spring cleaning to our Church and grounds a few weeks ago. Our time is precious! To donate a few hours of this heart-felt gift is greatly appreciated! God bless you!

### Holy Ghost, Northside

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS** — Much gratitude is extended to all those who sacrifice two hours of their time and muscle strength to bring some spring cleaning to our Church and grounds. Our time is precious! To donate a few hours of this heart-felt gift is greatly appreciated! God bless you!

**The Holy Rosary on all Fridays in May  
(MR) @ 6:00 p.m. Join Us!!!**

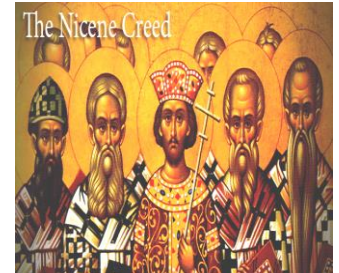
**Don't Forget to Wear GREEN Next Weekend!**

## THE SEVENTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

**The Core of Our Common Faith** (first read John 17: 1-13)

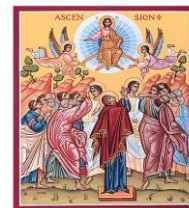
### Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Today, we are commemorating the Fathers of The First Council of Nicea held in the year 325 AD. It is the first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. *Most significantly, it resulted in the first, extra-biblical, uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.* With the creation of the creed, a precedent was established for subsequent local and regional councils of Bishops (Synods) to create statements of belief and canons of the true faith — the intent being to define unity of essential beliefs for the whole of Christendom. The council did not create the doctrine of the deity of Christ but it did settle, to some degree, the debate within the Early Christian communities regarding the divinity of Christ. This idea of the divinity of Christ, along with the idea of Christ as a messenger from God (The Father), had long existed in various parts of the Roman Empire. The divinity of Christ had also been widely endorsed by the Christian community in the otherwise pagan city of Rome. The council affirmed and defined what it believed to be the teachings of the Apostles regarding who Christ is: that Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father. Derived from Greek "ecumenical" meaning "worldwide or universal." One purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements arising from within the Church of Alexandria over the nature of the Son in relationship to the Father. Saints Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius claimed that Christ is God and the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arianism comes, denied this claim. The council decided against the Arians overwhelmingly. Of the estimated 318 attendees, all but two agreed to sign the creed and these two, along with Arius, were banished to Illyria. Another result of the council was an agreement on when to celebrate Easter, the most important feast of the ecclesiastical calendar.



### Our Christian Responsibility & Duty

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION LAST WEEK** — This past Thursday was **Ascension Thursday** and 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) at 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). Neglectful fulfillment of this precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.



**2 Weeks Remaining to fulfill Your Easter Duty!**

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18-19	..... 5 <sup>th</sup> & Final All Souls Saturday: Friday: (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
May 20	..... Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast. ..... Patronal Dinner Celebration & Honoring all our Parish Graduates @ 1:00 pm.
May 21	..... 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day of Pentecost — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 27	..... Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling the Easter Duty Precept.
May 28	..... Memorial Day observed; special Divine Liturgy @ 8:00 a.m.
May 29 through 30	..... Clergy Information Days at St. John Cathedral, Munhall.
June 5	..... MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
June 6	..... NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
June 14	..... GCU Lodge 390 Flag Day Ceremony @ 6:45 p.m.
June 17	..... Annual Father's Day

## Saints of the Week — May 18

### The Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra & Companions

The Holy Martyr Theodotus and the Holy Seven Virgins Tecusa, Phaine, Claudia, Matrona, Julia,



Alexandra and Euphrasia lived during the second half of the third century in the city of Ancyra, Galatia, and died as martyrs for Christ at the beginning of the fourth century. Saint Theodotus was an innkeeper and was married. Theoteknos, prefect of Ancyra, issued a proclamation informing Christians that they were obliged to offer sacrifice to idols, and if they refused, they would be tortured and killed. Pagans would deliver Christians over to torture, and then divide up their property. Theodotus was not afraid to bury the remains of holy martyrs, either carrying them off secretly or ransoming them from the soldiers. When the Christian churches at Ancyra were destroyed and closed, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in his inn. Knowing that martyrdom awaited him, Saint Theodotus predicted that soon they would bring him the relics of martyrs. At this time,

seven holy virgins died for Christ. The eldest, Saint Tecusa, was the aunt of Saint Theodotus. The holy virgins Tecusa, Phaine, Claudia, Matrona, Julia, Alexandra and Euphrasia had dedicated themselves to God from their youth, living in constant prayer, fasting, temperance and good deeds. All of them had attained to an advanced age. Brought to trial as Christians, the holy virgins bravely confessed their faith in Christ before Theoteknos and were given over to torture, yet remained steadfast. The prefect then gave them to shameless youths for defilement. The holy virgins prayed intensely, asking help from God. Saint Tecusa fell down at the feet of a youth, and pushing back her veil she showed him her grey hair. The young men were startled, and ran off weeping. The prefect then ordered that the saints take part in offering sacrifice to the idols, but again the holy virgins refused. For this they were sentenced to death. A heavy stone was tied to the legs of each, and all seven of the holy virgins were drowned in a lake. On the following night Saint Tecusa appeared in a dream to Saint Theodotus, asking him to take her body and give it Christian burial. Saint Theodotus, taking with him his friend Polychronius and several other Christians, went to the lake. It was dark, and a torch illumined their way. The holy martyr Sosander appeared in front of the guard who was posted by the pagans at the shore of the lake. The frightened guard ran off in terror. The account of the life and martyrdom of Saint Theodotus and the suffering of the holy virgins was compiled by Nilus, a contemporary and companion of Saint Theodotus. Nilus lived in the city of Ancyra during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian, and witnessed the saint's death. Saint Theodotus is also commemorated on June 7.

## General Announcements

**PATRONAL PENTECOST DINNER PLANS & LAST DAY FOR TICKETS** — Our Patronal Feast Day Dinner at the (MR) school hall is next week on **Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m.** We will also honor our upcoming high school and college graduates at this time. All Members of both Holy Ghost Parishes of MR & NS are asked to put this day aside so as to glorify God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) during these green holy days! The event will be catered by Cooked Goose Catering. **The menu will be: Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner, Roast Pork w/Gravy, Red Skin Potatoes, Mixed Vegetable and Tossed Salad. The Children's menu only will consist of Chicken Tenders along with Mac & Cheese.** Tickets are now available following the Divine Liturgies. The Church will be subsidizing the remainder of the costs. The special prices are: ACTIVE PARISHIONERS (13 & Over) \$10.00; GUESTS are welcome for \$13.00 Children's price \$5.00. You may also contact the Church Office (412) 771-3324. The Church will also subsidize the Graduates meal and all remaining costs. **Remember today is the last day for tickets!**

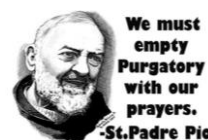


**LAST DAY FOR GRADUATES TO REGISTER** — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and College Graduates on the occasion of our Patronal Feast, **May 20, 2018.** All MR & NS graduates will be our guests and receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must phone the church office to inform us that you are graduating and will be attending the dinner. **Today, is the final day to register!**

**BI-PARTISN PRO-LIFE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE** — PA Primary Election Day is this Tuesday, **May 15.** Our Faith upholds all life as SACRED! When you vote PROLIFE, you are not voting for only one issue, but for THE ISSUE. You are encouraged to consider those candidates who are truly dedicated to the Pro-Life position. Let us defend the most vulnerable of God's children and speak for them by our vote when they cannot speak or act for themselves. Imagine yourself in their position. Wouldn't you want someone to defend you when your life is threatened?! The Guides are available in the narthex and side vestibule. Take the guide with you to the polls. Jesus came so that we may have life and live it to its fullness!



**FINAL ALL SOULS COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK** — The 5<sup>th</sup> and Final All Souls commemoration will be offered this coming **Friday, May 18 (NS); and Saturday, May 19 (MR).** This final Eucharistic Service in behalf of all Souls comes a day prior to The *Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, also known as Pentecost.* Our prayer is directed to God the Holy Spirit so as to grant eternal rest and a blessed repose to All Souls, especially the names submitted earlier. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat! Come & pray for their repose!



**EASTER DUTY PRECEPT** — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death AND during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). This was traditionally known as the EASTER DUTY. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary before receiving Holy Communion. Serious Sins are those fractures especially against the Ten Commandments and 6 Precepts of the Church, but not limited to them and must be confessed at least once a year. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (May 27)** is the final day to take care of this important spiritual matter without incurring serious sin of omission. Use the special examination of conscience forms located in the vestibule and narthex of the Church to assist you in making a good confession of sins.