

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday after Pentecost — June 17, 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 (\$1,428) YP (\$13)	\$1,441.00
Holy Days	193.00
Votive Candles	162.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,796.00

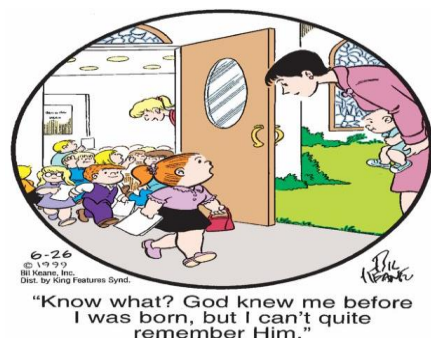
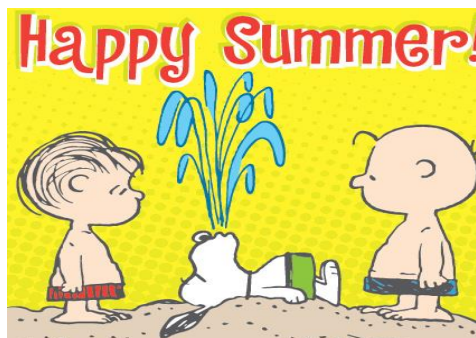
Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$664.00
Holy Days	10.00
Utilities (\$25) Improvements (\$10)	35.00
Votive Candles	72.25
	<hr/>
	\$781.25

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (38)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (81); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (57)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY

235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nancde@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski

*Sewing, Alterations, Custom
Embroidery and Unique Gifts*



Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

Lodge 390 offers Insurance and
Annuity Benefits greater than
most financial institutions. Info
call Tina (412) 859-9597

**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!**

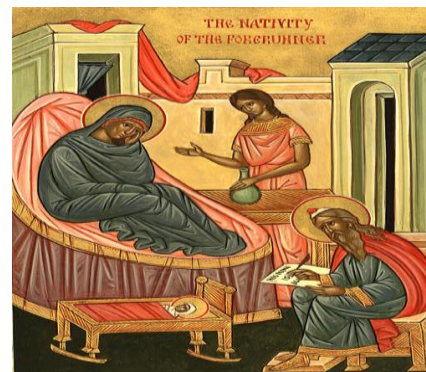


HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

4th & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast

Nativity of St. John the Baptist — June 24, 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 – 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 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!

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).

June 24, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 25



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
------	------	-----------	--------------

5th Sunday after Pentecost

4th & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast — Nativity of St. John the Baptist

SUN., Jun 24	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elsie Eberle (birthday)	Son: James
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Betty + Jay Mowery	Dgtr: Barbara "Babs" Mowery

Mon, Jun 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
-------------	----------------	---------------------------------------	--

Tue, Jun 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mike Ivan	Marian Dinipel
-------------	----------------	-------------	----------------

Recommended SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for vocations

Wed, Jun 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Thom Carney Murphy.	Dgtr: Kathleen J. Murphy
-------------	----------------	-----------------------	--------------------------

Final Day of the Petrine Fast.

Thrs., Jun 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Gramata	Brother: Basil & Elenor Gramata (20 th ann of passing 6/29)
---------------	----------------	----------------	---

Vigil Divine Liturgy of the Nativity of Saints Peter & Paul — Holy Day of Obligation

	7:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Dorothy Billy (40 th day of passing)	Billy Family
--	----------------	---	--------------

Feast of the Holy Prime Apostles Peter and Paul

Holy Day of Obligation — Mirovanije

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

FRI, JUN 29	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	Health & Welfare of Anna Toth	
			Velma Seman

Sat, Jun 30	1:30 p.m. (MR)	Nuptial Divine Liturgy & Marriage Ceremony of Joshua Steven McCusker (Holy Ghost) & Rebecca Ann Storloski (St. Albert the Great)	
-------------	----------------	---	--

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Mary O. Culan	Tom Keating
--	----------------	-----------------	-------------



6th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Jun 24	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Sendro	Wife: Janet & Family (4 th ann of passing)
	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

Jun 24 – Kristen Ruud, BRADLEY SPONTAK; **Jun 26** – Darlene Fejka, Patricia Porter; **Jun 29** – Patricia Kovacs; **Jun 30** – Olivia Leasure, Nicholas Stillwell.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuinas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Alice Sejka, Betty Spisak, 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. 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

June 24 — June 30, 2018

(MR): **In memory of Mary Agnes Kress (birthday 6/28)**

offered by Son: William & Kathe

(NS): **Health & Welfare of Diane & Linda**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018

offered by Joan Senchyshyn

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

CHURCH BASEMENT RECEIVED SOME H2O LAST WEEK — With all the torrential down-pouring of rain this past week, our Church Basement and the convent building got hit with about 2-4 inches of rain. The was minor water damage, along with a nuisance to clean. The school basement remains mostly dry since installing a new backflow valve and diverting the roof water to the street. Although water from the Catherine side stair drains-wells we did receive some minimal water onto the inside basement floor. Many of our neighbors were also annoyed with the flooding of their basement.



BANNS OF MARRIAGE III — This is the third and final announcement of the upcoming marriage of *Joshua Steven McCusker (Holy Ghost Church)* and *Rebecca Ann Storlarski (St. Albert the Great Roman Rite Church, Baldwin, PA)* this **Saturday, June 30, 2018**. If anyone knows why these individuals cannot contract marriage, please call the rectory office and speak to the pastor.



SAVE THE DATE: ALTAR BOY FUN DAY FOURTHCOMING — Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, July 31, 2018** and get ready for another great day of Fun! Open to all Altar Boys (elementary through high school), 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 Pittsburgh Zoo. We will be attending a Pirate Baseball Game against the Chicago Cubs. Following the end of the game, we will board the buses and head back to Holy Ghost Church for pick up and departure home. Approximate time will be 11:00 p.m. Phone the church office to register (412) 771-3324. **There are forms to be filled out & sent to the Chancery no later than July 6th. No extra Zoo or Pirate Tickets will be ordered!**



Holy Ghost, Northside

UTILITY ENVELOPE IN THE CONTRIBUTION BOX — With plenty of hot weather ahead of us this summer, we would like to use our air conditioning for Sunday and Holy Day Services for cooling comfort while praying to God. However, it is costly to run. Please consider at least an extra small sacrifice of monetary means to meet this expense in your UTILITY ENVELOPE. We receive very little for this allocation. We depend upon the regular Sunday and Holy Day offering to meet our other expenses. You know what it costs to pay your bills at home. Please remember your church during this time



(article continued) Take a break and allow the Holy Spirit to work in other ways in the other person's life. (And continue to be a good friend, or brother, or daughter, witnessing to Christ by silent example.) It might also be time to move on if your evangelizing has become mostly arguing. There is a time and place for arguments in evangelization, but if your interactions consist mostly of tense debates about Catholicism, that's perhaps a sign that your friend isn't really open to the truth right now (or maybe that you've become too obsessed with being right). If any mention of a Catholic teaching results in a defensive rejection, it's likely you are dealing with a closed heart. At that point, it's best to put on the brake. Even after you've shaken the dust off your feet and ceased explicitly evangelizing your friend, remember that you should still be charitable in everything, and continue to pray for his salvation. It might be that your continued prayers bring someone else into his life who can lead him to Christ and the Church. Someone's salvation isn't finally determined until death, and so there is always a chance for conversion, no matter how closed off the person might be right now.

When It's Time to Stop Evangelizing

(The following article appeared on the Catholic Answers web-page {www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition} The author is Catholic Apologist, Eric Sammons. It is with permission that this article is reprinted as to educate every Catholic on this topic)

Allison came up to me after my talk. She was distraught. Her co-worker Christina was a fallen-away Catholic, and nothing Allison said or did seemed to help her return to the Faith. For years, Christina was indifferent to her religion. She wasn't anti-Catholic; she just thought there was no purpose to Catholicism. Allison had been inviting her to Mass, encouraging her to go to confession, and giving her Catholic books to read. But to no effect. Allison asked me what more she could do. My answer shocked her. "Perhaps it's time to shake



the dust off your feet, Allison." What did I mean? she asked. "Some people are just not open to God. Jesus himself told his apostles that if someone doesn't listen to your words, then you should shake the dust from your feet as you leave that house (Matt. 10:14). He meant that there is a time to move on and stop evangelizing." "But Christina is my friend! How could I let her reject the Faith?" I understood Allison's pain, and my advice did seem to go against one's natural instincts. But it was well in keeping with what our Lord asks of us as his disciples. There is a danger for those of us who are serious about sharing our faith. We come to feel as if we are responsible for another person's salvation—note how Allison said, "How could I let [Christina] reject the Faith?"—as if she was responsible for Christina's faith life. If we don't say the right thing, or give the right book, or make the right invitation, then the other person might never become Catholic. And if the other person doesn't respond favorably, we get anxious. We believe that perhaps we said the wrong thing, or didn't say what we should have. So we dive even deeper into our evangelization effort. This attitude, though understandable, ignores the first principle of evangelization: you can't convert anyone. It's the Holy Spirit's job, not yours. Your job is to be the Holy Spirit's instrument. And sometimes, the Holy Spirit decides it's time to move on. This is hard. Does it mean that God has rejected this person forever? That he or she is destined for hell? Not at all. Consider the story of the Rich Young Man (Matt. 19:16-22). After Jesus told him what he needed to do to be saved, the Gospel tells us that "he went away sad" (v. 22). First, note that Jesus does not run after him, urging him to change his mind. He lets the young man walk away. But a pious tradition has it that later in life; this rich young man did convert to Christianity. Even though Jesus let him walk away, that doesn't mean he gave up on him. He just knew that the young man was not ready to fully receive his message at that time. Further urging would do no good—indeed, it might turn him off. Although shaking the dust off our feet might on the surface seem contrary to the parable of the shepherd who abandons his flock to save the one, it's consistent with a fundamental truth about the human person: God gave us free will. God is love, and love assumes the free will of all participants. God doesn't push himself upon anyone; instead, he invites us into his life. Imagine a human relationship where one person is pushing himself upon the other.... Many people today are already "dating"—they are dating the world. They are not interested in God, and no amount of insistence will change that fact. So how do we know when it's time to shake the dust off our feet? The best way is simply to be a good reader of a person's reactions. Have you given your friend a book and he hasn't read it? Have you repeatedly invited your sister to your parish and she always declines? Have you tried to bring up religious topics with a co-worker and he always changes the subject? These are all indicators that it's time to cease and desist. *(Article continues near under the parish announcement section).*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24 Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.
 June 28 **Holy Day of Obligation:** Vigil Feast of SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 7:00 p.m.
 June 29 **Holy Day of Obligation:** Feast SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 July 4 A special (MR) 9:00 a.m. Patriotic Divine Liturgy.
 July 20 Simple Holy Day: Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles.
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 July 31..... Archdiocesan Altar-Server *Faith & Fun Day* — Altar Boys must contact Church Office.

Saint of the Week — June 24

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

The Gospel (Luke 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age



without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, when Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words. Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. Saint John leaped

in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within her. Soon Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and Saint Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79). After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

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+): \$10.00. All tickets include entry into the Park and All-Day Ride. Byzantine Catholic Family Day is slated for **Thursday, July 26, 2018**. *Deadline for these discounted tickets is JULY 8*. 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. Come join in the fun and set the day aside.



GCU LODGE 390 LENDS A HELPING HAND TO FISHER HOUSE — Our local GCU Lodge is continuing to collect items to help Pittsburgh's VA Fisher House. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is a 10-bedroom "home away from home" and provides a place for visiting families to stay, free of charge, while their loved ones receive inpatient medical care at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is professionally furnished and features a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room with a library, and toys for children. They are requesting assistance in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Boxes will be placed at the side vestibule and narthex areas of both parishes for the **collection that will extend to August 5**. Needed items are listed on a stationery sheet near these boxes. Let's help our afflicted veterans and their families by supporting Lodge 390 in this collection! Thank you for those who are currently donating supplies!



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.*

ACT & SUPPORT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONTINUES — DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY — Catholic eparchies and dioceses across the Commonwealth are marking Religious Freedom Week which began **June 22 and continues through June 29**: Let us stand up and learn, defend, proclaim the Truth of our Faith and by offering this prayer for Religious Freedom: **O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome — for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us — this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen."**

