

**Parish Offerings – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — September 2, 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 (\$2,619) YP (\$16) .....	\$2,635.00
Holy Days (\$126) YP (\$1) .....	127.00
Votive Candles .....	103.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,865.00

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$553.00
Holy Days .....	110.00
Utilities (\$18) Improvements (\$57) .....	75.00
Votive Candles .....	21.65
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	\$759.65

**Church Attendance Last Week**

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (37)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)



**THE NEXT TIME  
SATAN REMINDS YOU  
OF YOUR PAST,  
REMIND HIM OF HIS FUTURE.**

**Valerian F. Szal**  
Funeral Home – 238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
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331-9713  
Fax: (412) 331-6688  
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Supervisor, CFSP  
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**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross  
Postfestival of the Nativity of the Theotokos  
September 9, 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.
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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 Bob Bartko: [rabartko@gmail.com](mailto:rabartko@gmail.com).  
Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.  
Social Hall Rental for (MR) Parishioners: Contact Rectory Office: (412) 771-3324.  
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).

September 9, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 36



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Sunday Before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN., Sept 9 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Betty + Jay Mowery Dgtr: Barbara "Babs" Mowery

Mon Sept 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Frissora (birthday) Nephew: Dr. Gordon & Kate Frissora

#### National Patriot Day

Tue, Sept 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank T. Firko (birthday) Firko Family

#### Final Day of the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Wed, Sept 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Muska (birthday) Cathy & Garland Saxe

#### Prefestive of the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

Thrs, Sept 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Francis E. Eberle Son: James  
(5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

### Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

REQUIRED Simple Abstinence — Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Fri, Sept 14 \* 8:50 a.m. (MR) + Rose Debranski (14<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy  
\* 5:50 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

\* Commences 10 minutes earlier for Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross

#### Saturday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Sat, Sept. 15 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Nicole Elena Ringes Grandmother: Anna Marie Demianczyk  
(20<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/17)

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#### Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost — Postfestive of Cross's Elevation

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Robert Kundrat Mom: Theresa Kundrat



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

Sunday After the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN., Sept 16 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. Valeriano-Kallop Families

## 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

Sept 9 – Catherine Rosko; Sept 10 – NANCY TOMASOVICH; Sept 11 – Donna Herron, Katherine Leasure, JOHN NEWPORT; Sept 13 – Adam Leasure, Annamae Smyda; Sept 14 – Derrick Burns; Sept 15 – Norma Kacsur, SHIRLEY KALNAS, Maryann Puluka.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, John Marks, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, 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 Dr., Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Pregnanz.

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.

CARING HEIGHTS (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Margaret Beliuas.

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

Q. What difference does it make what religion you are, as long as you live like Christ?

A. Catholic Answers Apologist: If someone does everything Jesus calls him to do, then he will--among other things--believe in Jesus and join his Church. Christ set up one Church for his believers to join. In Matthew 16:18, he says to Peter "Upon this Rock I will build my Church," not "I will build my churches..." Worship and religious affiliation are part of what Jesus commanded his followers, and so what religion you belong to does matter.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

September 9, 2018 — September 15, 2018

(MR): In memory of Robert Kundrat (14<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/18)

offered by Mom: Theresa

(NS): In memory of Gabriel Babin (15<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/19)

(MR) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2019 offered by Dgtr: Janet Sendro & Family (NS) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2019

# McKees Rocks Announcements

**KENNYWOOD PIROHI FEST FORTHCOMING — Sunday, September 23, 2018** is the



Pirohi Festival at Kennywood. Our church will be participating in this festival, and selling our renowned pierogi! As a member of Holy Ghost Church, all parishioners can purchase tickets at 50% off. If you are interested in going, tickets can be purchased online at:

[www.showclix.com/event/the-pittsburgh-pierogi-festival812210](http://www.showclix.com/event/the-pittsburgh-pierogi-festival812210). Upon checking out, enter this code in the coupon code field to get the 50% off:

PIEROGICHURCH2018. Full price tickets are: Adult (Ages 13+): \$24.00, Children (Ages 3-12): \$12.00; using this coupon code will reduce your ticket cost to \$12.00 & \$6.00; Children 2 and under are free! Questions: Contact Tam Revtai (412) 480-3707.

## Holy Ghost, Northside

**GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED FOR BOTH PARISHES FORTHCOMING — SAVE THE DATE** — The weeds and bushes surrounding our Holy Ghost Church really need attention. We can't do it without your cooperation! We surely need your help on **Saturday, September 29, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.**



To keep our grounds tidied encourages our neighbors to have civic pride and demonstrates that we care for God's Church and the important gift it is to the community. We need you!!! If you have any relatives needing extra credit for a scouting project or for school, our pastor will be happy to sign a form for them. Due to a lack of space, we are announcing this same event for our **McKees Rocks Church on Saturday, September 22, 2018.** Same format.

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## SUNDAY BEFORE THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION OF PRECIOUS CROSS

**Gospel meditation: John 3:13-17 teaches that Jesus:  
Not a Man sent from God, but God come as Man**

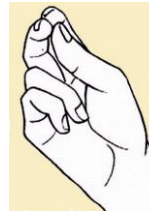
The one aspect about Jesus that impressed the crowds (Mt. 7:28-29) and irritated the Jewish leaders (Mt. 9:1:23) was that He taught and acted with authority. The basic issue for a Pharisee like Nicodemus was the authority of Jesus. Nicodemus was willing to grant, by virtue of the signs performed by our Lord that Jesus was a man sent from God, but this was not nearly enough. Jesus was God sent as a man. Our Lord's heavenly origin set him apart from every other Israelite, even the great men such as Abraham, Moses and the prophets: "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of man!" (Jn 3:13). This is why Jesus was qualified to speak to Nicodemus of 'heavenly things' (v. 12)— He is the only one come down from heaven. He is the Son of Man. In my opinion, our Lord employed the term 'Son of Man' with reference to Himself with the specific intent of identifying Himself with the Messiah, referred to in Daniel 7:13 as the 'Son of Man. Neither Nicodemus nor anyone else can give sufficient heed to the words of our Lord Jesus, until they have come to grips with His person. He is God come as man. Once that is settled, men must heed His teaching.



# Byzantine Catholics Transmit Ancient Christian Tradition

*All Catholics originally made the Sign of the Cross like today's Byzantines*

As we begin to celebrate the *Feast of the Elevation of the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord*, it is a good time to re-examine the way in which we bless ourselves. As is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we hold the thumb and first two fingers together signifying our belief in the Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The remaining two fingers are indicative of our belief of who Jesus is: God and man. These two figures are pressed into the palm reminding us that God came to earth and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Thus, when we make the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we begin by touching the forehead with the thumb and two fingers together while saying either "In the Name of the Father or Glory to the Father." Our action continues to move down below the heart (near the naval) signifying that the Son descended to earth to become man, to die and then resurrect from the dead. The movement then is directed to the right shoulder while saying "and to the Son" since He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of the Father. The gesture then goes across to the left shoulder while saying "and to the Holy Spirit. Amen." Historians seem to agree that this is the way Christians began signing themselves around the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. The entire true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the Precious Cross. This action is indicated in the catechesis of **Pope Innocent III (1198-1216)** when delivering the following:



*"The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity.... This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the right to the left, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left). Others, however, make the sign of the cross from the left to the right, because from misery (left) we must cross over to glory (right), just as Christ crossed over from death to life, and from Hades to Paradise. [Some priests] do it this way so that they and the people will be signing themselves in the same way. You can easily verify this — picture the priest facing the people for the blessing — when we make the sign of the cross over the people, it is from left to right."*

## CATECHESIS OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

**Pope's General Wednesday Audience — September 5, 2018**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters:** In our continuing catechesis on the Ten Commandments, we now consider the command **to keep holy the Lord's Day.** For the Scriptures, this day of rest



is not a mere escape or diversion, but a command to imitate God himself, who on the seventh day rested from his works and contemplated the goodness of his creation. Our day of rest, like his, must be an occasion of joy, praise, and thanksgiving for the gift of life, culminating in our celebration of the Eucharist, the supreme act of thanksgiving given to us by the Lord himself. How easy it is to be negative, to dwell on life's problems and challenges, and to try to flee from them! On the other hand, accepting God's invitation to give thanks for the goodness of life and creation entails a conscious choice. Goodness, like love, is never forced on us; it must be freely chosen and accepted. When, on our weekly day of rest, we contemplate our lives and the world around us, let us be conscious of God's provident care and conform ourselves, like Jesus, to the Father's will, knowing that, in the end, "all is grace". For, as the Psalmist assures us, in God alone do our souls find rest.

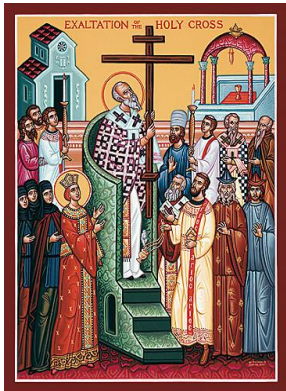
## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 8-9 ..... (MR) Coffee Social commences following the weekend Divine Liturgies.  
September 9..... Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm  
September 16 ..... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year  
September 16-18 ..... Archieparchial Assembly 2018.  
September 22 ..... MR Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.  
September 23 ..... Holy Ghost Pirohi Project to participate in Kennywood Park Pierogi Feast.  
September 29 ..... NS Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.  
October 1 ..... Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.

## Solemn Holy Day This Week

### Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross September 14

Two events in connection with the Precious Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Holy Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Life-



Creating Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Precious Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarios told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay

unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zachariah saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.

**We bow (+) to Your Cross O Lord,  
and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection!**

## General Announcements

### A short Explanation of the Three-Bar Cross

The three-bar Cross is used by those worshipping in Byzantine-Slavic Churches, namely Byzantine Catholics. As Ruthenian (Rusyn) Byzantine Catholics, we count the horizontal bars and not the vertical beam. There are 2 perspectives of its meaning: (1) the top bar contains the name that Pilate chose to be placed over Jesus' head: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"; the bottom bar, the foot-stool," is seen slanted indicating the direction of the Repentant Good Thief who went upwards to Paradise; and the downward direction that the Unrepentant Thief who went to hell. (2) Another common explanation is seen from the perspective of two original apostles who gave their lives for Jesus and were also crucified. The top bar represents the cross of St. Peter, who requested to be crucified upside down, not deeming himself worthy to die in the same manner as His Lord; and the bottom bar is in the form of an "X" referred to as the St. Andrew's Cross, who was put to death in this manner. We should wear and hang the Three Bar Cross as the trophy of our salvation and as a witness to others that God loves them and seeks their salvation.



**ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS** — Today, Archbishop Skurla will be honoring all Byzantine Catholic Wedding Jubilarians marking the special milestones this year



at St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA at 3:00 p.m. Our Holy Ghost Parishioner-Jubilarians, whose names were submitted and included in the celebration were: **(NS) Dolores and George Hundanick (65); (MR) Dolores and Stephen Kosko (60); (MR) MaryEllen and John Oslick (55); (MR) Beverly and Michael Harsh (55); (MR) Nanine and Burt Cifrulak (45); (NS) Mary Frances and Edward Spontak (45); (MR) Lenora and Gregory Haffly (40); (MR) Margaret and George Lucas (40); (MR) Karen and Frank Grzywinski (35); (MR) Shirley and Nickolas Kotik (25); (MR) Andrea and Steven Usouski (10).** Thank you for your faithful witness!! May God grant to our Parishioner-Jubilarians health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

**NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** — Our *Eastern Christian Formation* Classes will be commencing enrollment for two

weeks. This program ranges from Pre-School through Senior High. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration follows all Divine Liturgies today and next week. Catechetical Sunday and the First Day of Classes is slated in the MR Parish on **Sunday, September 16, 2018** following the 9:00 a.m. (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Call Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 897-4650.



**RESERVATIONS CONTINUE FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS** — Divine Liturgy and



Sanctuary Lamp reservation dates continue to be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both of these areas only two weekends of each will be accepted. When the demand subsides you will be able to reserve additional weekend dates. Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend (per candle/DL) in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and place it in the collection basket. You may reserve unlimited weekday DL's! Please don't wait or you'll be late!!!