

Parish Offerings – 26th Sunday after Pentecost — November 25, 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 (\$1,772) YP (\$12.72)	\$1,784.72
Holy Days (\$90) Thanksgiving (\$30)	120.00
Votive Candles	109.00
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	\$2,013.72

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$303.00
Holy Days	5.00
Utilities	25.00
Votive Candles	40.00
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	\$373.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (53)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (91); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)

Entrance of Theotokos into Temple, Nov 21 — (MR) 9:00 am (10); (NS) 6:00 pm (11)

Thanksgiving Day, Nov 22 — (MR) 9:00 am (18)

Thank You God
for everything in my life.
The good & bad.
Some were
Blessings
& some were
Lessons! ☺

No School!
Happy Thanksgiving!

Valerian F. Szal
Funeral Home — 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
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GCU
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**

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

THE 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2nd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Thanksgiving Day Weekend
November 25, 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

Liturgical Services LIVE: www.Youtube.com then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

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 Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.

Carpetho-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!

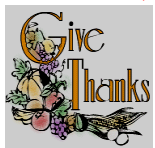
SPIRIT OF TRUTH

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).

November 25, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, 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

2nd Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Nov 25 (11) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Alphonse A. Siglow (8th ann of pass. 11/30) K & B
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Nov 26 (12) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Gramata Bro: Basil & Eleanor Gramata
(33rd ann of passing)

Tue, Nov 27 (13) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + James M. Droter Marge & James Lautenschlager
(56th ann of passing 11/26)

The Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

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, Nov 28 (14) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William J. Hrivnak Wife: Joyce & Family

Thrs, Nov 29 (15) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Ann Marks (birthday) M/M Anthony M. DeSalle

The Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

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



Feast of the Holy Apostle Andrew, the First-Called

Fri, Nov 30 (16) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen P. Petak Dgr: Marilyn Furman & Family

Sat, Dec 1 (17) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Barbush. Anonymous

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Margaret "Peg" Krulak (birthday 12/1) Bunny Zavidny



28th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 2 (18) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare (Birthday) Kurt W. Perschy
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

Nov 27 – NANCY GOGAL, DIANE LASKO; Nov 29 – Leonora Haffly; Nov 30 – Irene Bordas, Paul Rubish, Jr.; Dec 1 – MARY FUSCO.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Betty Spisak, 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): 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.

NEW HOPE ASSISTED LIVING (300 Union Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15202): Helen Hopey.

VECENTIAN HOME (111 Perrymont Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): ANNA TOTH.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is the penitent bound by the seal of confession? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: No, a penitent is not bound by the seal of confession. One should be prudent when discussing one's sins, but it's possible another person might benefit from the advice a penitent received in confession. A priest who celebrates the sacrament or anyone who deliberately or inadvertently hears a confession is bound to uphold the seal. In addition, while a priest may not break the seal, if a penitent brings up the same subject outside of confession, then the priest could prudently talk about that conversation. But the seal remains even after a penitent's death.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 25, 2018 — December 1, 2018

(MR): In memory of Michael Sejka (59th ann of passing 11/24)

offered by Children

(NS): Health & Welfare of Lynn & Rodger Kirsch

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019

offered by Joan Senchyshyn

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2019

McKees Rocks Announcements

ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR LESS FORTUNATE AREA CHILDREN — GCU Lodge 390 is, once again, holding a fraternal activity to help area children who may not be getting much for Christmas this year. This project is the ANGEL TREE will be 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 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 **Sunday, December 9**. Children from Holy Family Social Services and Family Foundation will distribute these gifts to the children 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 taking care of this project.



PHILIPPIAN FAST PIROHI SALES CONTINUE — will resume this Friday, November 30 & December 7 & 14. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, or by phone on Wednesdays 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 will still be available. We could use additional help, especially pinchers when we resume!



PIROHI PROJECT NUMBER 1 AT KENNYWOOD PIEROGI FEST — Table Magazine of Pittsburgh published the following: "The 5th Annual Pittsburgh Pierogi Festival at Kennywood Park (Sept. 23) 'stuffed' us with joy. Table proudly hosted the People's Choice Award and we're thrilled to announce the winners: **1ST PLACE: HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CHURCH, McKees Rocks**; **2ND PLACE: Onion Maiden & Gosia's Pierogies**; and **3RD PLACE: Pittsburgh Smokehouse**." Congratulations to Our Parish and thank you to all who worked the event! Here's the breakdown: Income: \$2,390.00; Expenses: \$983.89; Profit: \$1,406.11; Minus: 5% Cathedraticum: \$70.30. **TOTAL PROFIT: \$1,335.81**. Oh, by the way, our prize, was "bragging rights" that we are the best!

DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE FOR THREE WEEKS — Thank you to all who brought in nonperishable boxed and canned goods for the November Food Drive. In our love and compassion for the less fortunate, we are collecting and dispersing nonperishable food items in time for Christmas. Last day will be December 16. 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 NEXT WEEK — We will begin decorating the Church for Christmas on Monday, **December 3, 2018 @ 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.



PLASTIC BAG COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS — One of our "Byzan-TEENS," Ray Rippole is a Freshman at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. As President of our youth group, Ray is organizing a collection of plastic grocery bags from Holy Ghost parishioners. Sr. Francine Horos, a Felician Sister and Math Department Chair at OLSH, and the Heartstrings knitting activity work together to fashion a plastic yarn from the bags which is knit into a waterproof sleeping mat for the homeless. It takes 700 bags to make just one mat. **Please consider bringing in your plastic grocery bags** and leaving them in the collection box found at each entrance. Thank you for helping to recycle and care for the less fortunate.



Holy Ghost, Northside

CHURCH DECORATING NEXT WEEK — We will begin decorating the Church for Christmas following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, **December 2, 2018**. 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



MEDITATION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

Sanctify the Lord's Day by good works not Selfish Acts — Luke 13:10-17

There are a number of important points to keep in mind about the sanctification of the Lord's Day. God's commandment prescribes the sanctification of the whole day. We need to keep this in mind in our times when so many people feel that all we have to do is go to church for one hour on Sunday and rest of the day belongs to us. **WRONG!** ... The whole day is the Lord's Day. It belongs to Him! How do we keep it holy? It is a day of rest when people should put away their tools of labor. But it doesn't mean that people should be lazy or slothful because that too is a sin. Besides going to church it can be a time for visiting, or going to see the sick. To heal their bent spirits by lifting them up by our visitation. It should be a day for doing good. "Remember that thou shall keep holy the Lord's Day." There are many things involved in this commandment. But there is a starting place, and the woman of the Gospel lesson today provides it. She was ill, she was crippled, but she was worshipping in church on the Lord's Day. We, too, can make such a start each Sunday in keeping the Lord's Day holy. Jesus said, "Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I amongst them." His special presence and power is felt when His family meets together that they might with one heart and one tongue raise a common plea to Him. When a hundred voices cry out: "Lord, have mercy," a situation is created which opens the gates of grace to flow.



Pope Francis Speaks — The Year of Faith

Pope's General Audience at St. Peter Square Nov. 21, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters, In our continuing catechesis on the Ten Commandments, we now turn to the final commandments: **"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife... You shall not covet your neighbor's goods"**. These last commandments in some sense sum up the entire content of the Decalogue. For all sin, as Jesus teaches (cf. Mk 7:23), is ultimately born of covetousness: the evil desires that lurk in the human heart. The Ten Commandments, by teaching us how to live rightly with one another and with God, show us our need for a liberating change of heart that can only be received through the gift of the Holy Spirit. They invite us to abandon our self-seeking and the illusion of our self-sufficiency, and to acknowledge our need for salvation. The humble recognition of our spiritual poverty thus opens our hearts to God's mercy, which transforms and renews us, enabling us to live righteous lives in the sight of the Father, redeemed by the Son and taught by the Holy Spirit. In this way, we learn to show to others the mercy that we ourselves have received in Christ.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2 (MR) Parish St. Nicholas Celebration.
 Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 December 3 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.
 Slavjane Christmas Party following the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy.
 December 9 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.
 December 16 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.
 December 22 Tentative Installation of New Altar Servers & St. Aquilina Ministry
 December 23 Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 3:00 p.m.
 December 24 (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 p.m. Vespers w/DL of St. Basil the Great.

**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. & 6:00 p.m.
 December 28 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Golden Corral @ 6:00 p.m.
 December 29 Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 4:00 p.m.
 December 30 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

The Holy Martyr James the Persian — November 27

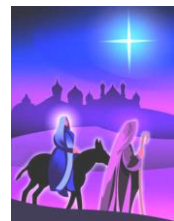
The Holy Great Martyr James the Persian (the Sawn-Asunder) was born in the fourth century into a pious Christian family, both wealthy and illustrious. His wife was also a Christian, and the couple raised their children in piety, inspiring in them a love for prayer and the Holy Scriptures. James occupied a high position at the court of the Persian emperor Izdegerd (399-420) and his successor Barakhranes (420-438). But on one of the military campaigns James, seduced by the emperor's beneficence, was afraid to acknowledge himself a Christian, and so he offered sacrifice to idols with the emperor. Learning of this, James' mother and wife wrote him a letter, in which they rebuked him and urged him to repent. Receiving the letter, James realized the gravity of his sin. Faced with the horror of being cut off not only from his family, but also from God Himself, he began to weep loudly, imploring the Lord for forgiveness. His fellow-soldiers, hearing him pray to the Lord Jesus Christ, reported this to the emperor. Under interrogation, St James bravely confessed his faith in the one True God. No amount of urging by the emperor could make him renounce Christ. The emperor then ordered the saint to be put to death. They began to cut off his fingers and his toes one by one, then his hands and his feet, and then his arms and legs. During the prolonged torture St James offered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who had granted him the possibility of redemption from his sins by enduring these terrible torments. Finally, the martyr was beheaded. Christians gathered up the pieces of his body and buried them with great reverence.



**Come O Jesus Our Savior,
 Redeem and Save Us!**

General Announcements

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS — As we continue this



minor penitential period we are directed to follow Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem by 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, we can 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 Church. The color **PURPLE** is worn as a sign of **ROYALTY** of the One to be born in Bethlehem.

GCU LODGE 390 ELECTS OFFICERS — At last Sunday's Lodge Meeting the following were elected officers: President: Tina Burns; Vice-President: Roxanne Savka; Secretary-Treasurer: Steve Puluka; Auditors: Bunny Zavidny & Mitch Galiyas. Helen Hopey who is now retired, has been given the title "Auditor-Emeritas" for the several years that she served in this position. GCU Lodge 390 is grateful for her service. As of January 1, 2019, will be known as GCU NORTHWEST DISTRICT LODGE

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 8, 2018** 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!

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 16, 2018 @ 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 TIMES FOR THE HOLY MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS — Special Confession times has been arranged to the following days & times to accommodate making a good Confession prior to Our Lord's Holy Nativity. **MR - Sunday, December 23, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m. & on the NS - Friday, December 21, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.** Also, Confessions are available at the regular times as indicted on the front of the S.O.T. Church Bulletin. *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 haven't made a Confession in many years, please do so at this time! A special guide is provided for you to examine your conscience can be picked up in the side vestibule & narthex. **Please make this a priority!**

LEARN ABOUT THE ANNULMENT PROCESS — Divorced Catholics and others who may be interested in learning about the annulment process are welcome to attend a free workshop with Jay Conzemius, JCL, judge and moderator; and Diane Kass, Tribunal Notary, of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Tribunal and Diocese of Pittsburgh Tribunal. Topics will include: theology of marriage; ministry of the tribunal; marriage annulment types; why, when and how to start the petition for annulment process; and a process overview. Afterward participants can ask questions and/or start the process. **This important presentation will take place at St. John Byzantine Catholic Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

