

Parish Offerings – Dec. 30, 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 (\$1,710) YP (\$9)	\$1,719.00
Holy Days (\$112) Christmas (\$411) YP (\$10)	533.00
Votive Candles (\$86) Christmas Décor (\$25)	111.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,363.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

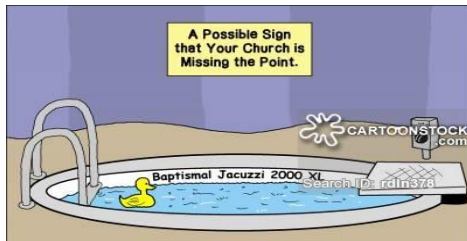
Regular Offering	\$533.00
Holy Days (\$30) Christmas (\$125)	155.00
Improvement	10.00
Votive Candles	36.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$734.50

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

Sun. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (69); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)

New Year's Day — (MR) Tue., 9:00 a.m. (11), (NS) 11:00 a.m. (18)



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

WATER
H₂O
HOLY WATER
H₂

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
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Nancy C. Debranski
*Sewing, Alterations, Custom
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GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
Lodge 390 offers Insurance and
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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
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without an added expense to
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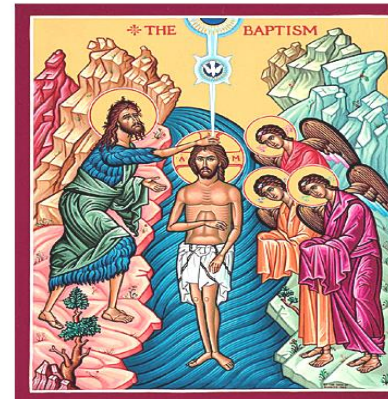
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

FEAST OF THEOPHANY

Baptism of Christ — Revelation of the Holy Trinity
January 6, 2019



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 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

Rejoice, O River Jordan, for the Creator of all draws near, and in His great goodness He desires to be baptized in your waters at the hands of a servant. O Adam, be filled with gladness; and Eve, the mother of the human race, sing with joy, for our Redeemer has appeared. He is the God Who is rich in mercy (Matins of the Theophany Feast.)

January 6, 2019

Christian Greeting (until Jan 14)

Volume IX, Number 1



Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!
Christos Krescajetsja! — Vo Jordani!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

Holy Theophany

Baptism of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ
Revelation of the Holy Trinity — Great Sanctification of Water
St. Basil the Great Divine Liturgy — Mirovanije

SUN., JAN 6 **8:50 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (birthday 1/12) Valeriano & Kallop Families

Mon, Jan 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Josephine Zula Zula Family



Tue, Jan 8 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Peter Rybowicz Wife: Debbie

Wed, Jan 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Richard F. Zula (birthday) Zula Family

Thrs, Jan 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance) for Peace in the whole world
Fri, Jan 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

Sat, Jan 12 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Dorothy Sotak Jane R. Sotak



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Sunday after Theophany
4:00 p.m. (MR) + John R. Debranski (birthday) Dgtr: Nancy



Sunday After The Enlightenment

We Will Renew Our Baptismal Promises — Postfestive of Theophany
SUN., JAN 13 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia + John Borsh Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Dolores + Tony Nee. Alice G. Slagle

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: Jan 6 – Thomas Dubensky; Jan 7 – ISABELLA RUSH; Jan 9 – Andrew Drukalsky, WILLIAM GOGAL; Jan 10 – MARY ANN SMOLEY; Jan 11 – Dennis Uram; Jan 12 – Michael Harsh, Michael Tomchak.

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

HOME: Margaret Belinas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, GEORGE HUNDAICK, SR; MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Betty Spisak, EVELYN VENTO, Anita Wolsko, 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.

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

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. How do I acquire virtue? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** By living a faithful Catholic life, taking full advantage of the sacraments available to you, including the Eucharist and confession. We need God's grace to live a virtuous life, and the sacraments are the ordinary and preeminent means of attaining and growing in virtue, beginning in baptism. By cooperating with God's grace, we grow in virtue, i.e., develop good habits (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1803ff.). The Church distinguishes between human and theological virtues, the latter of which are infused by God as free gifts, beginning in baptism, but all of which are increased by cooperative human effort and perfected by grace (CCC 1810ff.).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 6, 2019 — January 12, 2019

(MR): In memory of Terrek & Mikovitz Families

offered by Mildred Terrek

(NS): In memory of Diane Voight (7th ann of passing 1/7)

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2019 offered by Sister: Janet Sendro & Family (NS) AVAILABLE FOR 2019



Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **William Beluinas, 79**, of McKees Rocks on Thursday, December 27, 2018. He was the brother-in-law of parishioner Margaret Beluinas. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funerl Home, McKees Rocks. Interment was private. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, William, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'.



CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED NEXT SUNDAY — Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy next week, **January 13, 2019** we are asking all to volunteer and help put away the festive decorations. This date has been moved from Monday to Sunday since more parishioners will be in Church. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider offering an hour of your time, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.



TWO NEW SAINT AQUILINA MINISTRY INDUCTEES — During the December 23rd Saturday's before Christmas afternoon Divine Liturgy, **Olivia Harsh & Zi Zi Safranko** were appointed as the newest member of the St. Aquilina Ministry. The task allows girls to assist the Altar Servers and Ushers by distributing the weekly Spirit Of Truth (S.O.T.) Church Bulletin and also to help with the Mirovanije of the blessed bread on certain holy days and the Sunday that follow. We welcome Olivia & Zi Zi to this ministry of service, and pray that they will render faithful and loyal service ministry! God grant them many years!

FROM THE HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE — *Dear Barb, Peter (Stecko) and Members of the Church: Thank You very much for the Christmas gift donations for our families that we work with. Your generosity has been extremely encouraging to us and we know the recipients are grateful for the gifts as well. We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season! Sincerely — Holy Name In-Home McKees Rocks.*

Holy Ghost, Northside

CHRISTMAS DECORATION SOON TO BE DISMANTLED — We no sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it's time to dismantle it for another year. Following the Divine Liturgy on **January 20, 2019**, we are asking all volunteers to help put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider offering an hour of your time, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.



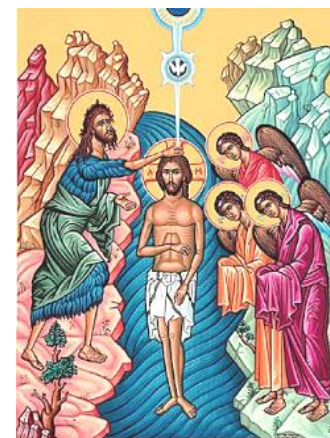
LIGHT OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION — *Dear Members of Holy Ghost Parish, Thank you for transforming lives. Your monetary gift of \$132.00 was received on Dec. 5, 2018. Be assured Light of Life is using your generous donations to provide life-changing care to the poor and homeless. If gifts exceed immediate needs, they will be used to provide care in the months ahead. We truly appreciate your gift! — Craig Schweiger, Executive Director.*

Please remember to pickup your 2019 Church Calendars and Envelopes

THE GREAT FEAST OF THEOPHANY

The Meaning of this Important Feast: GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17

Today we will celebrate the third greatest Holy Day of the Church Year. The Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River by John. The observance of this feast is not merely intended to commemorate the historical act of Jesus' baptism, but rather to celebrate the identification of Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One whose coming was foretold by the prophets. What happened at the banks of the Jordan River was a mystical event. The Spirit of God was seen descending upon Jesus in the form of a dove and a voice was heard from the heavens declaring, "This is my beloved Son, My favor rests on Him." (Mark 1:11) Prior to this moment, Jesus was recognized as merely a carpenter from Nazareth, the son of Mary and Joseph. After His baptism. He was now identified as the Son of God. This is why the feast day is referred to as "Theophany," a term which literally suggests a "God revelation/appearance." John's role in this event was not simply as baptizer, but also as prophet. He foretold the coming of the Kingdom. The theme of his preaching was, "One more powerful than I is to come after me!" (Mark 1:7) John witnessed the fulfillment of this prophecy at the Baptism of our Lord. We, too, like John, are called to be prophets. We, like John, prepare the way of the Lord by the way we conduct our lives, by the way we choose our words, and by the way we treat others. May we invite our Lord to come within us during this festive season so that we, in turn, might prepare a place for Him in others. "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in their midst," says the Lord.



The House is to receive God's Presence

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!



PREPARING THE HOUSE TO BE BLESSED: In a main room or at the icon corner place a candle, cross and/or icon on a clean linen cloth. • Have a small container of holy water that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany. • Have all radios, stereos, televisions, cell phones etc., turned off for the blessing. • Please have all pets confined or restrained. • If you have any religious articles you wish to be blessed, please place them on the table by the holy water. • When the priest arrives have everyone present assemble in the prepared place. • Sing the festal troparion and as much of the ritual as possible. In some places the cantor accompanies the priest, in others the priest goes alone. Therefore, participation is important. • By custom, in some places, the youngest member of the family, carrying a candle, leads the priest through the house for the blessing. The head of the family does this in different localities. While the priest goes throughout the house all sing the Troparion.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 6 Feast of Theophany — Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great & Sanctification of Water.
 January 13 Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy..
 January 18-25 Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
 January 20 Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Divine Liturgy.
 January 22 46th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion.
 January 30 Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs: 9:00 a.m. (MR); 6:00 p.m. (NS).
 February 1 Divine Liturgy and Sanctification of Candles 6:00 p.m. (NS).
 February 2 Encounter of the Lord Divine Liturgy w/Sanctification of Candles 9:00 a.m. (MR).

Saint of the Week

The Holy Martyr Polyeutus — January 9

The Armenian city of Melitene was drenched with the blood of Christians as was the entire country of Armenia. The first blood shed for Christ in this city



was that of Saint Polyeutus in the year 259 A.D. during the reign of Valerian. In this city [Melitene] were two friends: both Nearchus and Polyeutus were officers, Nearchus baptized and Polyeutus unbaptized. When the command of the emperor was sent out concerning the persecution of the Christians, Nearchus prepared for death; but he was in great sorrow because he had not succeeded in converting his friend Polyeutus to the True Faith. When Polyeutus learned of the reason for Nearchus' sorrow, he promised to embrace the Faith. The following day Polyeutus related his dream to Nearchus: the Lord Himself

appeared to him in light, removed Polyeutus' old clothes from him and dressed him in radiant new clothes and sat him in the saddle of a winged horse. After this, Polyeutus went to town, shredded the emperor's decree concerning the torturing of Christians, and destroyed many statues of the idols. He was tortured and was condemned to death. When he was brought to the place of execution, he looked at Nearchus in the throng of people and joyfully cried out to him: "Save yourself my dear friend! Remember the vow of love confirmed between the two of us!" Later, Saint Nearchus died as a martyr for Christ by fire.

**St. Polyeutus, beg Christ our God
to save our souls!**

General Announcements

SYMBOLS USED IN THE GREAT SANCTIFICATION OF WATER — On the Feast of Holy Theophany, the lengthy text prayed by the celebrant over the water is an ancient one. Thus,



it is referred to as the Great Sanctification of Water. It is accredited to St. Sophronius of Jerusalem (7th century). During the solemn blessing of water (which we refer to in Church Slavonic as the "Sanctification of Water") four different actions are prescribed by the priest upon the water: (1) the emersion of the **TRIPPLE BRANCH CANDLE** (called the Trojca meaning three) symbolizing the presents of the Holy Trinity at the Jordan River when Jesus was being baptized; (2) the breathing over the water symbolizing the **BREATH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** that gives life to the water as well as dispelling any diabolical activity contained in it; (3) the **HAND OF THE PRIEST** into the water in the form of four Greek letters (IC XC initials for Jesus Christ) demonstrating the presence of Our Savior in the water; and finally (4) the **HAND CROSS** is submerged into the water as the final act of sanctifying the water by this precious symbol that has destroyed Satan's power over it.

WHY YOUR HOME SHOULD BE BLESSED EACH YEAR — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our homes we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office.



INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS BY REQUEST— If you would like a record of your 2018 financial report, please contact the office between 9:30 am to 1:30 p.m.



Monday through Friday. If no answer, please leave a request on the voice-mail. Individual Financial reports will only be given on requests. The final day for 2018 credit was last Monday, December 31. Any contributions received in 2018 envelopes will be credited to your 2019 record for the end of this New Year.

WINNER OF THE GCU DECEMBER RAFFLE — Our Parishes recently received word from GCU Headquarters concerning the Dec. 16th raffle benefiting Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary. Although there were many winners of small gift cards, etc., that information could not be obtained. But the winner of the big cash prize of \$1,500 was MONICA KOWALSKI of Indiana, PA, with ticket number 800. She donated a portion of her winning in the form of gift cards to each seminarian. Thank you for all who participated to this worthy cause.

Remember to discard last year's Sanctified Water in a respectable manner and place! It is not to be poured down the sink drain!