Parish Offerings – 8th Sunday after Pentecost — August 4, 2019

"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 (\$2,693) YP (\$7)	52,700.00
Holy Days (\$115) YP (\$2)	117.00
Votive Candles	132.00

\$2,949.00

Holy Ghost Church Northside

Regular Offering\$4	418.00
Holy Days	20.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvement (\$35)	55.00
Votive Candles	. 48.00

Church Attendance Last Week

\$541.00

(MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (42)

Sun, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)

Transfiguration, Blessing of grapes & fruits

Aug. 5, – Mon, (NS) 6:00 p.m. (11); Aug. 6 – Tue, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (14)





TODAY'S READING IS MATTHEW 10:30 ...
"BUT THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE ALL

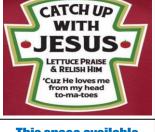
Valerian F. Szal

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



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This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, aet-well wishes, etc. **Call the office**

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DESIGNS BY NANCY

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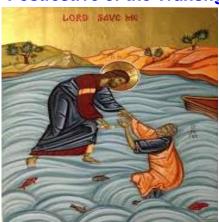


HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE McKEES ROCKS. PA 15136 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Postfestive of the Transfiguration — August 11, 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 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 Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge: (MR) Contact Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership.

Slaviane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: rebartko@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 Parishioners: (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).

Aug 11, 2019

Seasonal Greeting

Volume IX. Number 32



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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Intention

Requested By

9[™] Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Transfiguration — Within the Savioral Fast

SUN, Aug 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Karen (Hubal) Meloni (1st ann of passing 7/23) Anonymous 11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Aug 12

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Edward Zoytak (3rd ann of passing 8/11) Wife: Florence

Final Day of the Transfiguration Feast

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Kriska Tue, Aug 13

Bev & Joe Shimkus

Prefestive of the Dormtion Feast and Final Day of the Savioral Fast

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church.

Wed, Aug 14

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy (birthday)

Son: Kurt

Great Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition — Holy Day of Obligation 7:00 p.m. (MR) + Mary + Michael Korim (ann of passing) Nephew: Fr. Firko

Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

Holy Day of Obligation — Solemn Blessing Flowers and Herbs — Mirovanije

9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes THRS. AUG 15

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Helen S. Lubinski



April Arnold

Transposition of the Icon of Our Lord

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

for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church.

Fri, Aug 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

Sat. Aug 17 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes Knoll Son: Bill

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost — Postive of the Dormition Feast **4:00 p.m.** (MR) + Mary O. Culan

Lucille & Carmen Pellegrino

10™ Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Dormition Feast — Annual Parishes Picnic

SUN, Aug 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Toth (birthday)

Joan Senchyshyn

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 Aug 12 - Linda Reiger: Aug 13 - Shane McCusker: Aug 16 - Janet Sendro, Beth Skreptach

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, WILLIAM GOGAL, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Millie Sotak, Betty Spisak, EVELYN VENTO, 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.

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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is a priest obligated to baptize a baby even if the parents are not married or are not practicing the Catholic faith? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: If there is no reasonable assurance that after baptism the child will be raised in the faith, the priest has valid grounds for delaying the sacrament--or even refusing baptism altogether, if it is certain that the child will not receive a Catholic upbringing, something which is required by the sacrament itself. "The Church must have a well-founded hope that the baptism will bear fruit" (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Instruction on Infant Baptism, 1980). The Church does not take the matter of refusal of the first and most important sacrament lightly. The priest is obligated to keep in contact with the family and to attempt to secure sufficient assurances necessary for the celebration of the sacrament. Once the priest is satisfied that assurances are met, such as the choice of godparents who will be diligent in seeing that the child is raised in the faith, he cannot refuse to celebrate the sacrament without delay.



August 11 — August 17, 2019

(MR) In memory of the Reverend Father Roy Schubert offered by Holy Ghost Parishioners

(NS): In memory of Mary & Michael Korim, Jr.

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019 offered by Nephew: Fr. Firko (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019

McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner,



Elizabeth "Betty" Petruna, 96, of McKees Rocks (Presston), at Ohio Valley Hospital, PA on Friday August 2, 2019. She is survived by her daughters Michelle, Leonora, Julia, Pauline, Myrona and Beth and their spouses with several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Tuesday, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, August 6. Interment took

place at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, Elizabeth, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!

FROM A GRATEFUL RECIEPIENT — Thanks to the whole parish for your constant support of my discerning the call to the priesthood over the years! In particular, I wish to thank you for the recent financial gift presented to me which will help with the costs associated with seminary studies. I look forward to being around the parish on breaks, and hope to see some of you. Come and visit me at the seminary! --- Luke Iyengar (recently accepted student for priestly formation and post-graduate studies at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA)

Holy Ghost, Northside

PARISH ADVISORY/FINANCIAL COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK — A PAC/FAC Meeting will be conducted this Monday, August 19, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Church Rectory. All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance. Please mark your calendar.

COMBINED LIVING WILL AND HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY FORMS STILL AVAILABLE

- Two very important documents are available to you regarding a Catholic approach to Health Care.



Many Catholics are unaware of how our Faith directs us to respond in critical life situations. Perhaps, you may have been presented by a health care institution with a form to mark off the care you wish to receive. Be advised that hydration and nutrition are not necessarily extraordinary means but Ordinary Means in most cases! It is ERRONEOUS to accept the statement that we are not to feed or hydrate human life since it is a process of dying! If we are going to succumb to biological death it must be due to the disease and not from a lack of hydration and nutrition. This is why

Catholic Health Services forms were drawn up and given the blessing of our hierarchy. USE THIS FORM WHEN ASKED! Additional complimentary copies are available in the vestibule or by contacting the Church Office. You may, also, make copies and give it to others even if not of our Faith.

LAST WEEK OF THE SAVIORAL FAST — From August 1 to August 14, the Byzantine

Catholic Church has exhorted us to prepare for the Feast of the Mother of God's Dormition (Aug. 15) which is a Holy Day of Obligation. This minor penitential time is referred to as the "Savioral Fast (Spasovka)," since it falls within the celebration of Jesus' Transfiguration. The liturgical service traditionally offered at this time is the Paraklis. It gives us an opportunity to beseech God through the Theotokos for consolation and petition. The theme centers on the petition. "Most Holy Mother of God, save us."



Following each of the daily Divine Liturgies we will offer a portion of this service for all our family, relatives and friends who have left our church that they may return for the sake of their salvation. Come join us and offer your reception of Holy Communion for this intention. May this petition on behalf of our loved ones bring us consolation.

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Faith is measured by doing what He asks (Matthew 14:22-34)

Jesus said get out of the boat. Jesus told Peter he had little faith because he began thinking about the storm and doubted. How much faith did those who never got out of the boat



have? Jesus is telling us to get out of the boat. Afraid of terrorists? Get out of the boat. Afraid to talk to your teenager? Get out of the boat. Talk to them anyway. Afraid of what people will think if you lead? Get out of the boat. Lead anyway. Have faith that people will follow. Getting out of the boat is taking the next step. Has God called you to do the impossible? Start! Get out of the boat! He won't leave you stranded. If He's given you the job, He'll give you the tools to get it done. If He hasn't, you'll find out sooner if you get out of the boat. Step out in faith. Refuse to be frozen in fear; of failure, of what people think, of

opposition. Think about this...Peter failed at walking on water. He began to sink. But Jesus was right there to pull him up. He'll be there for us, too. It wasn't being right that made Peter the one Jesus chose to carry on after Him. Peter was wrong much of the time, sometimes in very embarrassing ways. It wasn't his fearlessness. He denied Jesus at a crucial moment. It wasn't his careful, diplomatic use of words, he blurted out some of the most foolish things. What was it? Peter was willing to get out of the boat. Let's not be frozen in fear, but in faith, act.

CASUAL SUNDAYS?

(The following is an abridged article taken from the Catholic Answers web-page. It is written by Catholic Apologist, Peggy Frye. It is offered here as a means of reflection.)

What do you wear to Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy)? Sadly, seeing super-casual attire at Mass (Divine Liturgy) is all too common. Many who attend look like they're ready for the beach It's not just the women who dress inappropriately at Mass (Divine Liturgy). Men need to be checked too Immodest dress at Mass (Divine Liturgy) is not a comfort problem but a spiritual problem. rooted in an over-sexed culture whose fashion influences have been trickling down into our parishes for decades. The mentality that "It's nobody's business what I wear for Mass (Divine Liturgy) — God knows my heart" reflects a lack of humility and a poor understanding of what's actually



happening at Mass (Divine Liturgy). It also shows a lack of respect for others, disregarding how our immodest dress can become an occasion of sin for the opposite sex. Church is "a house of prayer in which the Eucharist is celebrated and reserved, where the faithful assemble, and where is worshipped the presence of the Son of God our Savior, offered for us on the sacrificial altar for the help and consolation of the faithful" (CCC 1181). Church is not a place where temptation and sin should abound, where sexual distractions should be permitted to compete with our Lord who is present in the sacrament of the altar. When we pray the Lord's Prayer at Mass (Divine Liturgy) we say, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." So, why are we allowing carnal temptations to be openly present? Why are we giving the Evil One permission to prowl throughout our sacred places seeking the ruin of innocent souls? Immodest dress appeals to the flesh I don't believe "modesty custodians" of the type found at some churches in Rome should be stationed at the door of every Catholic church, turning people away if they don't comply with the parish dress code. Nor do I believe that women should come to church dressed like they came right off the set of Little House on the Prairie, or that men should wear tuxedos to Mass (Divine Liturgy) on Sunday. We just need to use common sense when we dress for church.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 10-11 Blessing of Students and Teachers for the new Academic School Year following weekend DL.
August 14 Vigil of the Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers –
(MR) 7:00 p.m. — Holy Day of Obligation.
August 15 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers — Holy Day of Obligation
(MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 p.m. — Holy Day of Obligation.
August 18 Annual Parish Picnic, Robinson Clever Road, beginning @ 1:00 pm.
August 25 An afternoon at Narcisi Winery, Gibsonia. Call Elizabeth Harbist (412) 264-4349.
August 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Simple Holy Day): (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.
September 1
E.C.F. Teacher Meeting in the Church Office @ 7:00 p.m.
September 1-2 85 th Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina.

Commemoration of the Week

The Transposition of the Image "Not-Made-By-Hands" of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople – Aug 16

During the time of the earthly ministry of the Savior, Abgar, ruler in the Syrian city of Edessa, was afflicted with leprosy. Reports of the great miracles performed by the Lord extended throughout Syria

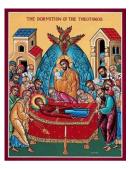


(Matt. 4:24) and as far as Arabia at this time. Although not having seen the Lord, Abgar believed in him and wrote a letter requesting Christ to come and heal him. Abgar sent his court painter, Ananias, with this letter to Palestine telling him to paint an image of the Divine Teacher. Ananias was not able go to near Christ because of the great many people listening to his preaching. He attempted to produce an image of the Lord Jesus Christ from afar, but could not. The Lord called Ananias and promised to send his disciple in order to heal Abgar from the leprosy and instruct him in salvation. Then the Lord called for water and a towel. He wiped His face with the towel, and on it was His Divine Image. The Savior sent the towel and a letter to Edessa back with Ananias. With thanksgiving Abgar received the sacred objects and

started healing. He continued healing until the arrival of the disciple Thaddeus, Apostle of the 70. The Apostle preached the Gospel and baptized the Abgar and all living in Edessa. Having written on the Image Not-Made-By-Hands the words, Christ-God, everyone trusting in Thee will not be put to shame, Abgar adorned it and placing it over gates of the city. For many years it was venerated by those who passed through the gates. Edessa, a great-grandson of Abgar, fell into idolatry and was determined to remove the image. In a vision, the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to conceal the image. The bishop and his clergy at night, blocked up the niche with clay tablets and bricks inclosing with it a lit lampada. Many years passed by and the inhabitants forgot about the Holy Object. In the year 545, the Persian King Chroses I, besieged Edessa, and all seemed hopeless. But Bishop Evlavios was commanded by a vision of the Theotokos to get from the enclosed niche the image with which to save the city from the adversaries. Dismantling the niche, the Bishop found the Holy Image: before it burned the lampada and on the clay tablets, with which the niche had been enclosed, was a similar image. After preceding with the Cross and the Image Not-Made-By-Hands around the walls of the city, the Persian army miraculously departed. In 630, Edessa was seized by Arabs; but they did not hinder veneration of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. In 944 the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (912-59) requested that the Image be brought to the Capital of the Orthodox. With great honor the Image of the Savior Not-Made-By-Hands was brought by the clergy to Constantinople. On August 16 the Image of the Savior was placed in the Pharos Church of the Most-Holy Theotokos. There are several traditions concerning the fate of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. One is that it was carried away by Crusaders during the time of their dominion over Constantinople (1204-61), but the ship on which Holy Objects had been taken, sank in the Sea of Marmora. Another is that the Image Not-Made-By-Hands was taken about 1362 to Genoa, where it was presented to and preserved in a monastery dedicated to the Apostle Bartholomew.

General Announcements

OBLIGATORY HOLY DAY THIS WEEK — Wednesday, Aug. 15, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Mother of God. It is the most ancient Marian Feast of



the Church. It is customary to bless flowers and herbs on this day. This custom of the Church arose when the Holy Theotokos fell-asleep on Mount Zion and all of the apostles were miraculously transported back to Jerusalem with the exception of St. Thomas. Following the funeral procession along the Kidron Valley to the Gethsemane tomb, they returned to Mount Zion. Thomas later arrived and urged the apostles to take him to view and pray before the mortal remains. When then arrived at the tomb an aromatic fragrance of flowers and herbs filled the air near the spot when they laid her. Her most pure body was no longer present. Receiving a vision that she was transferred to heaven, the apostles rejoiced and strengthened to proclaim the Good News of her beloved Son, Jesus. Following the

Divine Liturgies flowers and herbs will be solemnly blessed as a thanksgiving offering. Since flowers symbolize the beauty of Eternal Life, and herbs a healing remedy for the body, you may wish to take a blessed flower and place it on the grave(s) of your loved one(s) as a symbol of faith and a prayer that they may be resting in the eternal Kingdom of heaven. Bring flowers and herbs for this special blessing! Check the liturgical page for the times of the Divine Liturgies.

BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS THIS WEEKEND — Following each of the

Divine Liturgies this weekend, August 10 & 11, 2019 all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the 2019-2020 Academic Year in their various schools, colleges and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing has been moved to the second weekend of



August. Receive God's blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy.

LAST DAY FOR PARISH PICNIC TICKETS — Mark your calendars for next week, Sunday,



August 18 for our dual parish picnic. This year's event will be, once again, at Robinson Clever Recreational Park, Rotary Shelter, 115 Robinson Pool Drive, McKees Rocks 15136. It's the one with the swimming pool which will be admitting all Holy Ghost attendees for a special admission price. Ticket prices: Adults — \$13.00, Children — \$6.00. Meal will be served at 1:30 p.m. — SLAVJANE will perform at 2:15 p.m. Hopefully, they will be able to recruit new Holy Ghost

members. The picnic will extend from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Games for children and adults will be presented. Tickets are being sold following the Divine Liturgies or by phoning Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092. You may also just bring a picnic basket if you do not desire the catered meal. Please join us and make it a truly joint parish fun day!

GRATITUDE EXPRESSED FROM THE GCU LODGE PRESIDENT — "On behalf of GCU NWPR



Lodge, I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank all those who graciously donated items and/or their time to our 2nd annual helping hands drive to help fulfill the wish list for the VA Pittsburgh Fisher House. Your overwhelming response provided items that will help ease the minds of our Veterans Families so that they can direct their energy to help their family member recover. May God's many blessings be with you, your families, our Veterans

and their families. Gratefully Yours, Tina Burns President GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge."