Parish Offerings – 12th Sunday after Pentecost — September 1, 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 Gh	nost Churc	h, McKees	Rocks
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Regular Offering (\$3,095) YP (\$11)\$3	,106.00
Holy Days (\$100) YP (\$1)	101.00
Votive Candles	

\$3,329.00 Holy Ghost Church, Northside

	•
Regular Offering	\$378.00
Holy Days	
Improvement	
Votive Candles	
	\$482.00
	\$462.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Labor Day Weekend — (MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (40) Sun, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (60); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)





My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. – John 10:27 NIV.

Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136 Phone: (412) 331-9713 Fax: (412) 331-6688 Michael P. Ferrell, 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 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Nativity of the Holy Theotokos — September 8, 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 Mysteries of Initiation: 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.

<u>Holy Mystery of Matrimony</u>: 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. Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0195.

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).

Sept 8, 2019

Seasonal Greeting

Volume IX, Number 36



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever! Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki! Liturgical Services for the Week

Requested By

Intention

13™ Sunday after Pentecost

Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary

SUN, Sept 8

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna (40th day of passing 9/11)

Anonymous

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

*** 3:00 p.m. (CATHEDRAL) Archieparchial Celebration for Marriage Jubiliarians

Mon, Sept 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Frissora (birthday 9/10) Nephew: Dr. Gordon & Kate Frissora

Tue, Sept 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Firko, Sr. + Frank T. Firko, Jr. Children & Grndchildren (birthdays)

National Patriot Day

Wed, Sept 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Onesi (birthday 9/10)

Datrs: Eileen & Bonnie

Final Day of the Nativity of the Holy Theotokos

Thrs, Sept 12

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Nazak (40th day of passing 9/13)

Children & Grndchildren

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

for the intention of peace and harmony in our Country. **Prefestive of the Elevation of the Precious Cross**

Fri. Sept 13

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Francis Eberle (6th ann of passing).

Great Vespers w/Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Precious Cross — Solemn Holy Day * 5:50 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence — Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Sat. Sept 14 * 8:50 a.m. (MR) + Rose Debranski (15th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy

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

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday After the Elevation of the Precious Cross **4:00 p.m. (MR)** + Robert Kundrat (15th ann of passing 9/18) Mom: Theresa

Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Catechetical Sunday - Commencement of Religious Education Program SUN., Sept 15 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Norma Kacsur Husband: Peter & Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (8th ann of passing) 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 8 - AMBERLY VALERIANO: Sept 11 - Donna Herron, Katherine Leasure, JOHN NEWPORT: Sept 13 - Adam Leasure, Annamae Smyda; Sept 14 - Derrick Burns.

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. MANORCARE HEALTH SERVICES (505 Weyman Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15236): Nancy Wauthier.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. If parents are in an invalid marriage, can their children be baptized in the Catholic Church? Are there any conditions that would have to be met? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: If parents are in an invalid marriage, their children can be baptized in the Catholic Church provided the following conditions are met: "That the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent; "That there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism is, in accordance with the provisions of particular law, to be deferred and the parents advised of the reason for this. An infant of Catholic parents, indeed even of non-Catholic parents, may in danger of death be baptized even if the parents are opposed to it.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 8 — Sept. 14, 2019

(MR) In memory of Rose A. Debranski offered by Drgt: Nancy

(NS): In memory of Michael Seman, Sr.

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019

offered by Dgtr: Velma Seman

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019



McKees Rocks Announcements

UPDATE OF THE KENNYWOOD PIEROGIE FESTIVAL — On Sunday, September 22, 2019, Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, KP will be sponsoring the *Annual Pierogi Festival*



which we are hoping, once again, to claim 1st place! To prepare for this event, we are calling for all volunteers to attend a meeting following today's 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Also, this will be our first of the year coffee social. Our schedule for cleaning the gym kitchen is slated for this Tuesday, Sept. 10. We sure hope that you will be able to help us in preparation for this social event. We are always in

need of help; please consider donating some of your time on Friday, September 20th, and bring any friends / relatives that would be willing to pinch! Any help is appreciated! As a member of Holy Ghost Church, you can purchase tickets at 50% off. If you are interested in going, tickets can be purchased online at: https://www.showclix.com/event/the-pittsburgh-pierogi-festival8122105CjKwoa To get the 50% off, enter this code in the coupon code field when checking out: PierogiChurch19 Full price tickets are: Adult (Ages 13+): \$24, Children (Ages 3-12): \$12; using this coupon code will reduce your ticket cost to \$12 & 6, respectively. And remember the Byzantine Catholic pronunciation of these delectable delights is rendered by the Ruthenian (Rusyn) language PIROHI not by the national Polish name PIEROGIE:)

Holy Ghost, Northside

GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED FORTHCOMING — 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 28, 2019** 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. Please consider sacrificing two hours of your time in assisting us. Remember this is our Church and the need for all parishioners to assist us in this bi-annual activity!

Holy Days Important to be Celebrated

In the liturgical calendar of the Church, Holy Days play an important part and should be celebrated by the faithful. Each event reminds us of the importance of the happenings which took place. It transcends space and time through the liturgical expression, and manifests God's goodness to us as they gradually unwrap His salvific plan for us. Our Byzantine Catholic Church ranks Holy Days in three classifications: (1) Obligation; (2) Solemn; & (3) Simple. The first precept of the Church does oblige us to come together and celebrate the salvific event. Solemn and Simple encourage us to do the same. However, Solemn and Simple Holy Days are not a free ticket to avoid gathering and glorifying them. We should attend them unless we are seriously impeded not by obligation but by love and gratitude. Please make every effort in this new liturgical year to attend all or at least several Solemn and Simple Holys and enrich your souls with God's grace that awaits you. Our dual purpose in attending is not to be entertained but to (1) worship and praise God for all that He has done and continues to do for us; and (2) allow Him to act by feeding us with His Word and Eucharist. If we have not done so already, let us begin this week with the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross. The Solemn Enthronement of Holy Cross begins 10 minutes earlier on Friday evening & Saturday morning.

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. 91:23) 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 figures 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 8th and 9th centuries. The entire true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the One Who was nailed to 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."

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 8	Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm
September 13	Great Vespers w/Divine Liturgy: The Elevation of the Precious Cross – (MR) 6:00 pm.
September 14	Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross – (MR) 9:00 am.
September 15.	Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year
September 21	Commencement of a new Slavjane Season at the 4:00 p.m. DL. (rescheduled from Sept. 7).
September 22.	Holy Ghost Pirohi Project to participate in Kennywood Park Pierogi Feast.
September 28 .	(NS) Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
October 1	Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
	(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

Solemn Holy Day This Week — September 14 Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

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 4th 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 slated 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: (MR) Helen & Lester Best (60); (MR) Judy & Edward Wovchko (55); (MR) Marcia & William Babin (50); (NS) Theresa & George Fecik (50); (MR) Helenea & Edward Connor (40); (MR) Peggy & Charles McCusker (40); (MR) Darlene & Gregory Fejka (40); (MR)

Elizabeth & John Harbist (35); (MR) Tam & Frank Revtai (35); (MR) Sandra & Gregory Rosko (35); (MR) Donna & Harry Herron (25); (MR) Kimberly & Eric Ruud (25); (MR) Michelle & Robert Cifrulak (25); Erin & Carl Bates (25); (MR) Amy & Andrew Sclight (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 another week. 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. All begin on Catechetical Sunday, September 15, 2019 following the 9:00 a.m. (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Call Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 897-4650.

SLAVJANE COMMENCING FORTHCOMING NEW SEASON — Slavjane will be attending the

Divine Liturgy on Saturday, September 21, 2019 (rescheduled from **Sept. 7)** at the 4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy in order to implore God for the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit as they began their new year. This very talented Rusyn Ensemble has been a part of the Pittsburgh Archeparchy with its home at (MR) Holy Ghost Church for several years. It continues to keep alive this cultural dynamic from the Old Country where the founders of our Byzantine-Rusyn (Ruthenian) Catholic Churches had its genesis. We offer special prayers that its legacy will continue and that the joy they manifest through song, instrumental expression and dance may give glory



to God, and sustain our cherished heritage. Students wishing to join Slavjane may contact Bob Barko at (412) 779-0195 for membership requirements and complete a membership form.