

Parish Offerings – 13th Sunday after Pentecost — September 8, 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

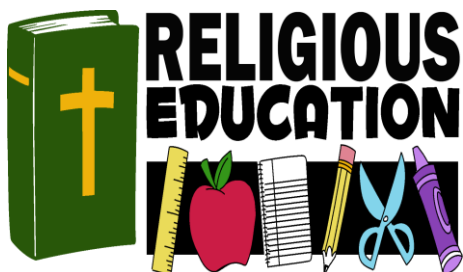
Regular Offering	\$1,610.00
Holy Days (\$390.75) YP (\$6)	346.75
Special Donation (by Joyce & John Walsh)	50.00
Votive Candles (\$70.50) Coffee Social (\$19)	89.50
	\$2,146.25

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$608.00
Holy Days	110.00
Votive Candles	38.50
	\$757.45

Church Attendance Last Week

Labor Day Weekend — (MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (39)
Sun, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (95); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

I didn't fall. The floor just needed a hug.

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

THE 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Postfestive of the Elevation of Cross
September 15, 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

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Ill Serving Yours Since 1953



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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.
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!*

GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

NWPL 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

Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church Office 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!

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 15, 2019

Seasonal Greeting

Volume IX, Number 37



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



Date Time Intention Requested By

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

Mon, Sept 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Formoso (birthday 9/15) Husband: Vincent

Tue, Sept 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Anna Pungras Demianczyk
of Velma Seman (birthday)

Wed, Sept 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Thrs, Sept 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marie Jumba Cifrulak Family
(5th ann of passing)

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of peace and harmony in our Country.



Fri, Sept 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

Final Day of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross & It's Solemn Removal

Sat, Sept 21 9:00 a.m. (NS) + John Kost + Helen Petrancosta Kost Family

Autumn Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 15th Sunday after Pentecost
4:00 p.m. (MR) + John Kundrat Wife: Theresa Kundrat
(29th ann of passing 9/23)



15th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Sept 22 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Nicole Elena Ringes Baba
(21st ann of passing 9/17)

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 15 – Norma Kacsur, SHIRLEY KALNAS, Mary Ann Puluka; Sept 16 – Mark Cifrulak, Robert Cifrulak, MARY FRANCES SPONTAK; Sept 17 – Christina Michalim, Ethan Singel; Sept 20 – Dolores Babin, LEONARD R. KALLOP, JR., Laura Saber; Sept 21 – STEPHANIE MULLEN.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuonas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Iлона Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, 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. What is detraction? What are some basic principles to help me examine my conscience with respect to this sin? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: The Baltimore Catechism (Q 1311) defines detraction as "revealing the sins of another without necessity." So the basic questions we need to ask ourselves when a situation arises where we might reveal someone else's sins: What is my motivation for sharing this information? Am I trying to make myself look better or someone else look worse? What good, if any, will come out of sharing this information? Am I taking pleasure in sharing this information? If the "shoe was on the other foot," would I feel someone would be justified in sharing this about me or someone I love?

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 15 — Sept. 21, 2019

(MR) In memory of Robert Kundrat

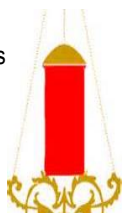
offered by Mom: Theresa

(NS): In memory of Leonard R. Kallop, Sr.

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019



McKees Rocks Announcements



SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of **Alexander Charles Alman, 16**, of Mt. Washington on Monday, September 9, 2019 at UPMC Mercy, Pittsburgh. He was the son of Lisa Flinner-Alman & Jay Alman; his brothers were Joshua & Charles Boston. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Sept 13 at 10:00 noon. Condolences are to the Alman & Flinner Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, to your servant Alexander, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!

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! Thank you to all who came to clean the kitchen this past Tuesday. As we prepare for this 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

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **William Gogal, 81**, of



McCandles Township on Friday, September 6, 2019 at the family home. He was the beloved husband of Nancy (Woods); his children were: Julianne (Bob) Glitsch; Mary Jane Gogal; Elizabeth J. (Roland) Hillig; William David (Lauren) Gogal; and Thomas Andrew (Heather) Gogal He also leaves many grandchildren & great-grandchildren; and also a brother, James (Carol Ann) Gogal. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, California Avenue, North Side. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Sept 9 at 10:00 noon. Condolences are to the Gogal Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, to your servant William, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!

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**. We need your assistance!



SLAVJANE COMMENCING FORTHCOMING NEW SEASON — Slavjane will be attending the



Divine Liturgy on **Saturday, September 21, 2019** 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.

Who Can Receive Communion?

(The following abridged article had appeared on the Catholic Answers Webpage several months ago but is still relevant today)

The Holy Eucharist is the most important of the seven sacraments because, in this and in no other sacrament, we receive the very body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus



Christ. Innumerable, precious graces come to us through the reception of Holy Communion. Communion is an intimate encounter with Christ, in which we sacramentally receive Christ into our bodies, that we may be more completely assimilated into His. The Eucharist also strengthens the individual because in it Jesus himself, the Word made flesh, forgives our venial sins and gives us the strength to resist mortal sin. It is also the very channel of eternal life (John 6:53-58).

Because of the gravity of Jesus' teaching on receiving the Eucharist, the Church encourages Catholics to receive frequent Communion, even daily Communion if possible, and mandates reception of the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season. Before going to Communion, however, there are several things one needs to know.

First, you must be in a state of grace (1 Cor. 11:27-28). This is an absolute requirement which can never be dispensed. To receive the Eucharist without sanctifying grace in your soul profanes the Eucharist in the most grievous manner. A mortal sin is *any* sin whose matter is grave and which has been committed willfully and with knowledge of its seriousness. Grave matter includes, but is not limited to, murder, receiving or participating in an abortion, homosexual acts, having sexual intercourse outside of marriage or in an invalid marriage, and deliberately engaging in impure thoughts (Matt. 5:28-29). Or out of habit and out of fear of what those around them will think if they do not receive Communion, some Catholics, in a state of mortal sin, choose to go forward and offend God rather than stay in the pew while others receive the Eucharist.

Second, you must have been to confession since your last mortal sin. The *Code of Canon Law* indicates that the same requirement applies today. "A person who is conscious of a grave sin (which also includes deliberately missing the Sunday Divine Liturgy or a Holy Day of Obligation) is not to receive the body of the Lord without prior sacramental confession unless a grave reason is present and there is no opportunity of confessing; in this case the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible.

Third, you must believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation. Transubstantiation means more than the Real Presence. According to transubstantiation, the bread and wine are actually transformed into the actual body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ, with only the appearances of bread and wine remaining.

Fourth, you must observe the Eucharistic fast. Canon law states, "One who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion". Elderly people, those who are ill, and their caretakers are excused from the Eucharistic fast.

Fifth and *finally*, one must not be under an ecclesiastical censure. Canon law mandates that those who are excommunicated or interdicted after the imposition or declaration of the penalty and others who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion. Provided they are in a state of grace and have met the above requirements, Catholics should receive the Eucharist frequently.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
Oct 6-10 Annual Archieparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochean Retreat Center, Ligonier.

Saints of the Week

Holy Martyrs

Trophimus, Sabbatius & Dorymedont

September 19

The Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedont suffered for Christ during the reign of the Roman emperor Probus (276-282). A pagan festival was being celebrated in the city of Antioch. Sacrificial offerings were brought, the wine was poured, and vile acts were performed. The Christians Trophimus and Sabbatius arrived in the city just as the festival was taking place, and were saddened by this loud and indecent spectacle. They prayed that the Lord would guide the errant on the way of salvation. As they said this, the idolaters noticed their presence. Seeing that the strangers did not worship the idols, they arrested them and took them to the governor. At their interrogation, the saints firmly confessed their faith. When they were told to renounce Christ, they resolutely refused to do so. St. Sabbatius died under the fierce torment. St. Trophimus was sent to the city of Synnada in Phrygia for even more terrible tortures. For three days St. Trophimus walked shod in iron sandals with sharp nails, driven on by a cavalry guard. The governor of Frigius, Dionysius, infamous as a torturer and executioner, used all manner of tortures to break the will of the brave Christian. St. Trophimus merely repeated the words of Scripture: "many afflictions has the righteous one, but from them all will the Lord deliver him" (Ps 33/34:20). The senator Dorymedont, a secret Christian, visited St Trophimus in prison, washing and binding his wounds. When the pagans learned that the senator would not participate in the festival of Castor and Pollux, they asked the reason for his refusal. He said that he was a Christian, and would not attend a festival in honor of the demons. He and St. Trophimus were thrown to the wild beasts to be eaten by them, but the martyrs remained unharmed. Then they were beheaded with the sword.



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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.

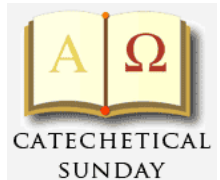
VENERATING THE PRECIOUS CROSS PROPERLY — A special veneration of the Precious Cross takes place twice a year as it rests on the tetrapod table of the Church. Since the Most



Holy Trinity is responsible for our salvation **we bow profoundly** with our right hand to the floor in honor of God the Father, Who so loved the world that He sent us His Only-Begotten Son; then a **second profound bow** in the same manner in honor of God the Son, Who redeemed us upon the Life-Creating Wood also by venerating it with a kiss; and then a **third profound bow** in honor of God the Holy Spirit,

Who sanctifies us by the Precious Blood of Christ flowing from the Holy Cross. Let us always respectfully venerate this great symbol of God's love and mercy towards us!

FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & COMMISSIONING CATECHETICS — Today commences our 2019-2020 Catechetical Educational Year following the morning Divine Liturgy. All Catechist will be commissioned in a short ceremonial program and receive a blessing to go "forth in peace." Our Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.) Program is vital to the spiritual formation of our youth. Parents, please see that your children are enrolled in this program. Religious Education is important if any young teen-ager (14 and over) is asked to be a sponsor for Baptism and/or Chrismation (Confirmation). If you have any questions, please contact Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 344-6523



RESERVATIONS FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS — Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp reservation dates are being 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 take care of this matter quickly to acquire your special dates.