

Parish Offerings – 14th Sunday after Pentecost — September 15, 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 (\$1,444) YP (\$7)	\$1,451.00
Holy Days	241.50
Votive Candles	103.50
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	\$1,796.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$392.50
Holy Days	60.00
Votive Candles	43.50
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	\$496.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Labor Day Weekend — (MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (41)
Sun, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (85); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (35)

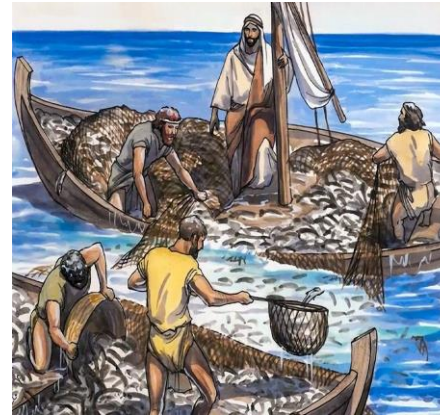
Elevation of Precious Cross, Sept. 13 – (NS) *5:50 p.m. (11); Sept 14 – (MR) *8:50 a.m. (12)



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

THE 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 22, 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.

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!

Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412)
331-9713

Fax: (412) 331-6688

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
III Serving Yours Since 1953



HAPPY FALL!



DESIGNS BY NANCY

235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 580-1545
Nanode@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski

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A Fraternal Benefit Society

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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 22, 2019



Seasonal Greeting

Volume IX, Number 38



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



Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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 (21 st ann of passing 9/17)	Baba
Conception of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist of the Lord, John			
Mon, Sept 23	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Carol Schaner (1 st ann of passing)	Husband: John
			
Tue, Sept 24	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Alexander F. Perschy (10 th ann of passing)	Son: Kurt
Wed, Sept 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joyce D. Ray (birthday)	Linda Jones
The Passing of the Holy Apostle & Evangelist John			
Thrs, Sept 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michele (Terrek) Chiavetta (40 th day of passing 9/19)	Sandra Mikovitz
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for the intention of peace and harmony in our Country.			
			
Fri, Sept 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Julie Ann Bersavage	Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz.
Sat, Sept 28	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula (2 nd ann of passing 9/29)	Zula Family

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 16th Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Andrew J. Drukalsky Barb & Denny Finnegan

16th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Sept 29	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ John Spontak (16 th ann of passing 10/02)	Son: Bob & Joyce

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 22 – Elizabeth Harbist, Mary Ann Puluka; Sept 23 – Charles Alman, Kathleen Charochak, THERESA FITZURKA, TAMARA HARDING, Tam Revtai, Cecelia Rose Sclight; Sept 25 – CINDY MEADERS.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, 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.

ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): Nancy Wauthier.

UPMC PASSAVANT (9100 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): GEORGE HUDANICK, SR

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it OK to work on Sunday? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: Rest from work is necessary. We know that even God himself rests: "he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done" (Gen. 2:2). In recognition of this, the Church obligates us to rest on the Lord's day. The Code of Canon Law states, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass (Divine Liturgy). Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body" (CIC). However, the Church recognizes that legitimate reasons excuse from this obligation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health" (CCC 2185).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

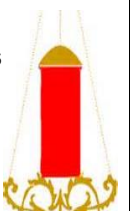
Sept. 22 — Sept. 28, 2019

(MR) In memory of John Kundrat

offered by Wife: Theresa

(NS): In memory of Thomas Zon (birthday 9/27)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019 offered by Sister-in-law: Theresa Fitzerka (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2019



McKees Rocks Announcements

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



“**Millie**” **Sotak, 91**, of Kennedy Township on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at Ohio Valley Hospital, McKees Rocks, PA. She is survived by her children: Janet (Sam) DiCicco, Michael (Saundra), Elaine (Ed) Cassidy, and Sherry (Mark) Fleiner. She had several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral arrangements were handled by the McDermott Funeral Home, Kennedy Township. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Sept 14 at 10:00 a.m. Condolences are extended to the Sotak Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, to your servant Amelia, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat’!

KENNYWOOD PIEROGIE FESTIVAL TODAY —Kennywood Park is sponsoring the *Annual Pierogi Festival* which we are hoping, once again, to claim 1st place! Thank you to all who came to accomplish the prep work this past Friday. As a member of Holy Ghost Church, you can purchase tickets at 50% off the entrance fee to the Park. 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 FOR THIS SATURDAY — 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 next **Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.** We really need your assistance!



WHY DO OUR PROTESTANT FRIENDS HAVE SMALLER BIBLES continued — **Bottom line: Why is the Bible a Catholic Book?** Answer: The Bible is a Catholic Book because the New Testament was written by Catholics, because the Catholic Church determined which books belong in the Bible., and because the Catholic Church preserved and published the books of the Bible by hand-copying them down through the centuries. The Bible is a gift that God gave to the world through the Catholic Church.

AUTUMN COMMENCES THIS WEEK

Autumn, interchangeably known as fall in North America, is one of the four temperate seasons. Autumn marks the transition from summer into winter, in September (Northern Hemisphere) when the arrival of night becomes noticeably earlier and the temperature cools considerably. One of its main features is the shedding of leaves from deciduous trees. Autumn begins Monday, September 23 at 3:50 a.m.

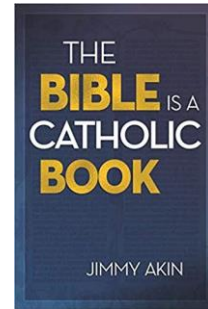


RETIRED PRIEST SERIOUSLY ILL — Please keep in prayer Archpriest, **Fr. Dennis M. Bogda, who is seriously ill at the St. Barnabas Nursing Home, 5827 Meridian Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044.**

Why Do Our Protestant Friends Have Smaller Bibles?

(The following interview with Catholic Apologist, Jimmy Akin had appeared on the Catholic Answers Daily and gives insight to questions concerning the Bible)

We recently sat down with Catholic Answers Senior Apologist Jimmy Akin, to talk about why the Bible is a Catholic Book. **Question: Our Protestant friends often speak of “the word of God” as if it was limited to just the Bible. Is that true?** Answer: No.



The Bible speaks of the “word of God” as being several different things. It certainly includes the Bible, but it also includes the word of God communicated to people orally — in the form of Tradition, as when the apostles preached the word to people before the New Testament was written, or when the prophets preached God’s word before any book of Scripture was written. The Ultimate Word of God is Jesus Himself, so we can’t limit the word of God to just the Bible. **Question: Jesus condemned the Pharisees for “making void the word of God” by their tradition. Does that mean all Tradition is bad?** Answer: Just because one group misuses tradition doesn’t mean all tradition is bad. Elsewhere, the New

Testament speaks highly of the traditions that come from the apostles, and it commands Christians to honor them whether they are in the Bible or not. The tradition of the Pharisees isn’t binding on us, but the Tradition of the apostles is! **Question: Our Protestant friends say we should base our doctrine on “Scripture alone.” What’s wrong with this idea?** Answer: A big problem is that, if we have to prove every doctrine “by Scripture alone” or sola scriptura then we’d have to prove this doctrine in the same way. But we can’t. There are no verses that say or imply that we should prove every doctrine by Scripture alone. That makes sola scriptura a self-refuting doctrine. **Question: Some anti-Catholics say that the Catholic Church “hates” the Bible and tries to keep it from the people. How can we reply to that?** Answer: If the Catholic Church “hated” the Bible, then it wouldn’t have laboriously hand-copied Bibles in the long centuries before the invention of the printing press. Further, the monks wouldn’t have made the beautiful illuminated Bibles, whose pages they literally covered in gold by applying gold leaf to the illustrations to honor God’s word. **Question: When were the Gospels written? Are they late documents written long after the life of Jesus?** Answer: As biblical scholarship has progressed, the dates for the Gospels have been steadily rolled back. You no longer have scholars saying they were written a hundred or more years after Jesus. Today, virtually, all scholars acknowledge that they were all written in the first century, and the best evidence indicates that they were written between about A.D. 55 ad 65 — only around twenty or thirty years after Jesus’ ministry. **Question: Did all Jews in Jesus’s day honor the same books as Scripture?** Answer: No. Different groups of Jews had different opinions about which books were sacred, and most did not have a single, closed list or “canon” of biblical books. The precise boundaries of the Old Testament continued to be debated in Jewish circles for centuries. **Question: Why does the Bible contain the books that it does? How did we get the exact list of books it has today?** Answer: God guided the Church, over the course of centuries, to recognize certain books and not others as being written expressions of His word. On the human level, this was done through the teachings of the Magisterium – the popes and the bishops. The Catholic Church in identifying the books of the Old and New Testaments. **Question: Why do our Protestant Friends have smaller Bibles?** Answer: Martin Luther and other early Protestant leaders rejected certain Catholic teachings, such as Purgatory, which is strongly supported in the Old Testament book 2 Maccabees. They, therefore, appealed to the European Jews of their day, who didn’t honor 2 Maccabees and certain other books as Scripture. Thus, they removed certain books from the Protestant Bible that Christians has historically regarded as Scripture. --- Continued under MR & NS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

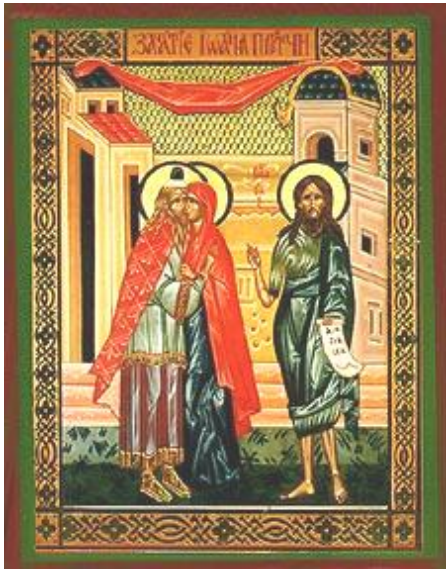
September 22 Holy Ghost Pirohi Project to participate in Kennywood Park Pierogi Feast.
September 28 (NS) Church grounds cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
October 1 Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
Oct 6-10 Annual Archieparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochean Retreat Center, Ligonier.

Saint of the Day This Week

Conception of St. John the Baptist

September 23

The Conception of the Venerable Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The holy Prophet Malachi prophesied that before the Messiah's birth His



Forerunner would appear, and would indicate His coming. The Jews therefore in awaiting the Messiah also awaited the appearance of His Forerunner. In a city of the hills of Judea in the land of Palestine lived the righteous priest St Zachariah and his wife St Elizabeth, zealously observing the commandments of the Lord. The couple, however, had a misfortune: they remained childless in their old age, and they prayed unceasingly to God to grant them a child. Once, when St Zachariah took his turn as priest at the Temple of Jerusalem, he went into the Sanctuary to offer incense. Going behind the veil of the Sanctuary, he beheld an angel of God standing at the right side of the altar of incense. St

Zachariah was astonished and halted in fear, but the angel said to him, "Fear not, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." But Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly messenger, and then the angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you the good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words...." Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah and they were astonished that he had not come out from the Sanctuary after so long a time. And when he did come out, he was supposed to pronounce a blessing upon the people, but could not do so because he had been struck speechless. When Zachariah explained by gestures that he was unable to speak, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The prophecy of the Archangel was fulfilled, and Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness, and gave birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

General Announcements

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.



PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO SERVE PASTA DINNER — Mark your calendars! The Priests and Deacons in the Pittsburgh Deanery will be again hosting a **FREE PASTA DINNER** at St. Elias Church, Munhall on **Sunday October 20, 2019** from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. A signup list is located in the Church. We must know how many to prepare for! The final day for registration is Sunday, *October 13*. A *freewill offering will be taken to subsidize the project. Any profit that will be made will go to the Archieparchial Priests' Pension Plan. Come join us; it a bye week for the Steelers!*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: COME & SEE WEEKEND — Young men 18-35 are invited to a Weekend of Discovery retreat, Friday through Sunday, **November 1, 2, & 3, 2019** at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary. *The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest. No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense involved in participating in this retreat. Only men who register online office@bcs.edu by October 9th will be eligible.*



DID YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS? — We are preparing labels for the upcoming contribution envelope boxes. We wish to make sure that we have your current address on file along with a current email address. Please notify the Church Office if there are any changes. Also, please use your contribution envelopes. Your sacrificial offerings help to continue the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and the administration of the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) at our Holy Ghost Church. Just as you are required to meet your fiduciary obligations at home, so must we here at the Church. It is a Universal Church Precept to meet this responsibility. The Church understands that in times of economic distress and shortcomings this may not be tentatively possible. If you are not able to contribute please contact the pastor. He will understand. Remember to be a sponsor at Baptism/Chrismation or to be married in the Church this Precept of the Church (this is only one of six) must be fulfilled!



Update your contact info!