

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of the O.T. Holy Fathers – Dec. 22, 2019**

**Christmas — Dec. 25, 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 (\$3,958) YP (\$10) .....	\$3,968.00
Holy Days .....	196.00
Christmas (\$4,165) YP (\$37) .....	4,202.00
Votive Candles .....	178.25
	<hr/>
	\$8,544.25

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$443.00
Holy Days (\$50) Christmas (\$1,231) .....	1,281.00
Special Donation (Church Boiler Pipe by Paul Mitro) .....	75.00
Utilities (\$40) Votive Candles (\$93) .....	133.00

**Church Attendance Last Week 1,932.00**

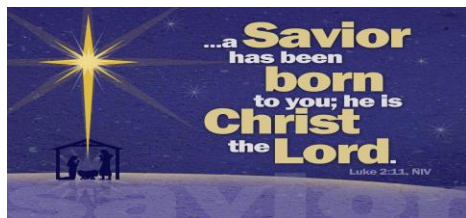
Sat., 4:00 p.m. (61)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (86); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (38)

**CHRISTMAS EVE (MR) 9:00 p.m. (55);**

**CHRISTMAS (MR) 9:00 a.m. (78); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (38)**

*Synaxis of Theotokos* — Tue, Dec. 26 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (13); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (5)



**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  
*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



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**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 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!**



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

**THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**Memory of King David, Righteous Joseph & Apostle James — December 29, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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 Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Randy Baden (412) 973-1085 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0195.

Carpautho-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

O Joseph, announce to David, forefather of Christ, the good news of these wonders you have seen: A Virgin giving birth to a Child; with shepherds you have glorified Him; with the Magi you have worshipped Him; and an angel appeared to you. Beg Christ to save our souls (Troparion of the Synaxis Feast).

December 29, 2019 **Christmas Christian Greeting:** Volume IX, Number 52  
(Dec. 25 through Jan. 4)



**Christ is Born! — Glorify Him!**  
**Christos Razdajetsja! — Slavite Jeho!**



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>Sunday After Christmas</b>			
<b>Commemorating the Righteous Joseph, King David &amp; Apostle James</b>			
SUN, Dec 29	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Amelia M. Sotak	Holy Ghost Pirohi Workers
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ William (Bill) Gogal	Mary Ann Smoley
Mon, Dec 30	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen (Seman) Lucy <i>(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing)</i>	Sister: Velma
<b>Final Day of the Nativity Feast</b>			
Tue, Dec 31	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joseph Gramata	Family
<b>FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD &amp; FEAST OF ST. BASIL</b>			
<b>New Year's Day of 2020 — Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije</b>			
<b>53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Prayer for World Peace</b>			
Wed, JAN 1	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Kotik <i>(birthday)</i>	Louis, Charles & Pat DeAngelis
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Mary Agnes Kress <i>(10<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)</i>	Son: Bill & Kathe
<b>Prefestive of Theophany</b>			
Thrs, Jan 2	8:00 a.m. (MR)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	
<b>VIGIL OF THEOPHANY</b>			
Fri, Jan 3	8:00 a.m. (MR)	ROYAL HOURS OF THEOPHANY	
	1:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Robert Lyman	Alice & Anna May Sejka
<b>Saturday before the Enlightenment</b>			
Sat, Jan 4	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Fr. John Kasarda <i>(birthday 1/5)</i>	Fr. Firko
*****			
<b>Sunday before the Enlightenment Divine Liturgy</b>			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Mary O. Culan	Cangelier Family
<b>Sunday before the Enlightenment</b>			
Sun, Jan 5	9:00 a.m. (MR)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ William (Bill) Gogal	Mary Sahayda
*****			
<b>Theophany Divine Liturgy with the Great Sanctification of Water — Holy Day of Obligation</b>			
	*** 6:45 p.m. (MR)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	

# 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*

**Dec 24** – ABIGAL RUSH; **Dec 29** – Evelyn Yakubik; **Dec 31** – Callahan Bedard, David Bubalo; **Jan 2** – Stephanie Herron; **Jan 3** – Bernadette Gunkel, Shirley Kotik; **Jan 4** – George Brosky, Nicholas Gunkel.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuнас, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Muha, Mike Muska, 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.  
**VANADIUM WOODS VILLAGE** (50 Vanadium Rd, Apt 230 Bridgeville, PA 15017): Helen Hopey.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** Are people ever reincarnated? **A.** Answer by a Catholic Apologist: No. Reincarnation is a myth, an idea entirely foreign to what has been revealed by God. The Bible teaches that it is appointed to man to die once and then face judgment (Heb. 9:27; CCC 1013). Ultimately, we will go to heaven, to be with God forever, or to hell, which is eternal exile from God's loving presence (Mt. 25:31-46; CCC 1022). Of course, on the way to heaven, a person may need purification in purgatory (1Cor. 3:10-17; CCC 1031). Reincarnation denies the need for a Savior. Titus 3:5 says that we are not saved by works of righteousness, but by the renewal offered by the Holy Spirit. Reincarnation is a philosophy that says we have to continually "work" to improve ourselves, allowing us to come back to life as something better than before. According to this philosophy, the death of Christ for our sins has no meaning because our salvation is totally dependent on our continued work. Reincarnation also denies the dignity of the person as a unique individual being... (and indicates) that you are a recycled person, not the unique "one time" creation made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**Dec. 29, 2019 — Jan. 4, 2020**

(MR) **In memory of Mike & Debra Palahunik**

offered by Anonymous

(NS): **In memory of Julia & Andrew Kittan & Anna & Michael Kacmarak**

(MR) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020

offered by Family

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020



## General Announcements

**OUR (MR) PIROHI WORKERS LUNCHEON TOMORROW** — Once again, gratitude is extended to all who sacrificially participated in this Project over the past several weeks. In appreciation, all workers are invited to a post-Christmas celebration on **Monday, December 30, 2019** at the Grandview Buffet, Rivers Casino @ **1:00 p.m.** Please phone the Church office if you have not signed the list. Let us join and continue to celebrate the Great Feast of Christmas! If you are bringing a travel-guest, please be sure to see Fr. Firko to square away payment. Looking forward to seeing all you Pirohi workers there Monday afternoon! God Bless you! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!!!



**ECF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEXT WEEK** — The second semester for the ECF Program commences next week, **January 12, 2020** following the Weekend Divine Liturgies. Parents, God-parents and Guardians, If your children are not enrolled in this program, please have them attend these religious education classes. Phone Steve Puluka (412) 344-6523. For those who are seeking a Holy Ghost Church Scholarship Subsidy for Parochial Education, this is an obligatory requirement. Also, the attendance has been very low last semester. Please be sure your children are enrolled and there each week. Our teachers sacrifice their time in preparing the lesson plan so that all children may benefit in religious education.

**COFFEE SOCIAL RESUMES ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH** — Just a reminder that our Coffee Social resumes the first full weekend of each month. We appreciate Bunny Zavidny for all the years that she coordinated this project following the Saturday Divine Liturgy. She can no longer do it. Bunny, we appreciate all the work that you've done! God bless you! We are looking for someone to take her place for this once a month social on Saturdays. Join us next weekend for coffee and doughnuts following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.



**CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED FORTHCOMING** — We no sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it will be time to dismantle it for another year. We will gather on **Sunday, January 19, 2020 following the Divine Liturgy** and ask an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider assisting us, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.

## Northside Announcements

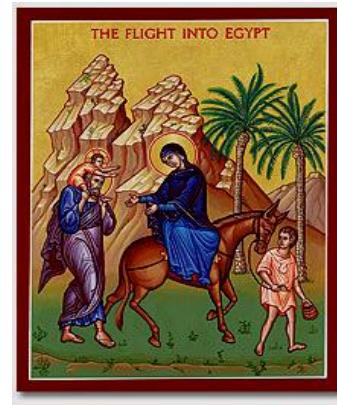
**CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED FORTHCOMING** — We truly had a beautiful Christmas display for the past Great Holy Days. It's time to take them down following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, January 19, 2020**. Please consider your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. All it takes is app. an hour of precious time!

**CHURCH BOILER-PIPE REPAIRED** — We had experienced a huge loss of water over the past month. The leak came from a rotted boiler-pipe beneath the Church. Thank goodness we have a crawl space to get to the problem. Matt Mertz Plumbing came to our rescue and drained the steam line, cut out and replaced the leaking sections of the stem line. Then refilled and tested the system. Total cost of the project that took a half day totaled \$2,285.00. We are especially grateful for all who have donated towards this emergency problem. God bless you for your sacrificial offering. As previously stated, we had to take money from our Parish Savings and Share Account to pay the invoice in full.

## Christmas Story Continues

### The Flight into Egypt — GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23

As we commemorate the flight into Egypt as we did on the day following Christmas. The Magi from the East, having worshipped the Lord in Bethlehem, were directed to return to their home another way by command of an angel.



Herod, that wicked king, planned to slaughter all the children in Bethlehem, but God saw Herod's intention and sent His angel to Joseph. The angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and commanded him to take the young Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt. Thus, the words of the prophet were fulfilled: *Behold, the Lord rides upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt* (Isaiah 19:1). In old Cairo today, the cave where the holy family lived can be seen. Likewise, in the village of Matarea near Cairo, the tree under which the Most-Holy Theotokos rested with the Lord Jesus, as well as a miraculous spring of water under this tree, are visible. After having lived for several years in Egypt, the holy

family returned to Palestine, again in response to a command of an angel of God. Thus, another prophecy was fulfilled: *Out of Egypt have I called my Son* (Hosea 11:1). Herod was dead and his wicked son Archelaus -a worthy successor of him in evil-sat on his bloodstained throne. Hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Jerusalem, Joseph returned to Galilee, to his town of Nazareth, where he settled in his own home. Herod's second son, Herod the Younger, who was somewhat less evil than his brother Archelaus, then reigned in Galilee.

## The House is to receive God's Presence

### In Preparation for another year of House Blessings:

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! As the priest enters the house, he greets the family by saying: **Peace be to this house!** The response is: **And to all who dwell therein.** 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, 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 faithful remain quiet until the priest returns.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 30 ...Pirohi Project Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Casino Grand View Buffet @ 1:00 p.m.  
 January 1 ..... New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 a.m.  
 January 3 ..... (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours of Theophany; 1:00 p.m. DL of St. John Chrysostom — meat permitted.  
 ..... Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Golden Corral, Robinson @ 6:00 p.m.  
 January 5 .....Holy Day of Obligation — (MR) Vigil Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great @ 7:00 pm.  
 January 6 ..... Feast of Theophany — Divine Liturgy of St. Basil & the Great Sanctification of Water —  
 Holy Day of Obligation — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 January 19 ..... Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.  
 ..... Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.  
 January 18-25 ..... Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.  
 January 22 .....47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion.

## FEAST OF OUR LORD'S CIRCUMCISION & Feast of St. Basil the Great — January 1

The Mosaic Law prescribed that when a woman brought a male child into the world, he had to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. Our Lord submitted to the circumcision prescribed by the Law on this day, which is the eighth day after His birth, and received, according to the announcement of the angel, the name which is above all names, "Jesus" or Savior. In celebrating the name day of the Lord today, we begin the New Year at the same time under the sign of the Nativity of Christ. Saint Basil the Great belonged to the province of Pontus, through his father also named Basil, and through his Emmelia, and through his mother Emmelia, to Cappadocia. He was born in Caesarea in Cappadocia around 329-330. He studied in Caesarea, then in Constantinople under Libanius, and finally in Athens, where he



became a close friend of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus. Shortly after his return to Caesarea which occurred about 356, he retired in solitude to the outskirts of Neocaesarea, where his mother and his sister Macrina already led the monastic life. It is at that time he composed his ascetical writings. He was ordained a priest by Eusebius, Archbishop of Caesarea, and at the death of the latter was elected in 370 to succeed him and rule the Church of Christ. He governed it for eight years, during which time he proved himself a witness of the truth in the face of heresy and full of courage before the threats of the Arian Emperor Valens. He died on January 1, in the year 379. The wisdom and the learning which fill his works, his Philokalia (extracts from the works of Origen), his Treatise on the Holy Spirit, his theological work against the Arian Eunomius, his ascetical writings, his monastic rules, his commentaries on Sacred Scripture, the panegyrics which he made of many saints, his correspondence, and finally the splendor and the force of his words, have won for him rightly the epithets of "Revealer of Heaven," and of the "Great."

## General Announcements

### Troparion of Christmas And the Ruthenian (Rusyn) Tradition

An aspect of the liturgical tradition that many present-day Byzantine Catholics have lost occurs in the Christmas Troparion. Many of you should remember your parents and grandparents bowing slightly and making the sign of the Cross over themselves each time the **Christmas Troparion** was sung. A slight bow with a sign of the Cross should be made during the phrase: "... have learned from a star to worship (+) You the Sun of Justice. On the word *worship* we are to bow and bless ourselves. Let us revive the tradition of the founders and benefactors of our Holy Ghost Church and transmit to our children and others this unique manner of glorifying the newly-born Christ Child.



**PASTOR EXTENDS GRATITUDE FOR CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE** — Fr. Firko extends heart-felt thanks to all who remembered him by way of prayers, greeting cards, gifts and cooperation to ready the Church for this Christmas Season. A special thank you for all who attended the special Holy Day Services and the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. God bless all of you for your remembrances, kindnesses & thoughtfulness!!!



**DATE CHANGED: CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER** — Since there is no Simple Abstinence (no meat) on the Friday prior to Theophany as indicated on our Church Liturgical Calendar, the **Parish Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township** has been moved to **Friday, January 3, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.** As you know, the Church cannot operate very well if it weren't for volunteers! This complimentary dinner extends its appreciation for all who volunteered in some aspect of parish life throughout 2018. This includes all Altar Servers, Ushers, Cantors, Readers, Office Personnel, Collection Counters, Church & Rectory Cleaners and Decorators, Altar Cover changers, Catechists, Radio Ministry, etc. This Dinner also includes all Pirohi Workers who will not be able to attend their luncheon buffet. A list is now located in the vestibule of the Church. *Final day for signing is today.*



**YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS** — It's that time of year to think about filing our taxes. Our Holy Ghost wishes to credit you whatever you contributed in 2019. *The final day to submit any contribution for this tax year is Sunday, December 29, 2019.* Anything collected after that date will roll-over to the New Year 2020. **For example, any of this year's Christmas Donations that arrive following this date will be accredited to 2020 for the following year's record.** Please keep this in mind when you are preparing to file your income tax. Thank you for remembering your Church throughout 2019! May God bless your sacrificial generosity so that our Holy Ghost Church may continue to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). — **END OF THE YEAR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS CAN BE SENT VIA E-MAIL PLEASE REQUEST IT NOW BY SUBMITTING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!**

