

Parish Offerings – Sunday before Theophany — Jan. 5, 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 (\$2,986.75) YP (\$11)	\$2,997.75
Holy Days (\$335) YP (\$2) Christmas (\$560)	895.00
Initial (\$270) YP (\$5)	275.00
Votive Candles (\$73.50) Coffee Social (\$10)	83.50
	\$4,251.25

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

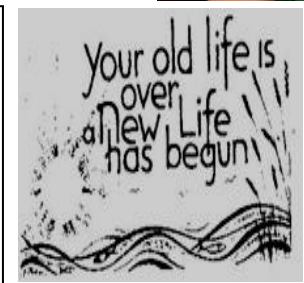
Regular Offering	\$408.00
Holy Days	75.00
Initial (\$75) Utilities (\$2) Improvement (\$45)	122.00
Votive Candles (\$52.50) B.C.W. (\$14)	68.50
	\$673.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (49); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (71); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (31)
Theophany of the Lord — Baptism of Christ — Manifestation of Holy Trinity
 Sun., (MR) 7:00 p.m. (34); Mon., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (24); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)



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*



DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 262-9141
 Nanode@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alterations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society
 Lodge 390 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

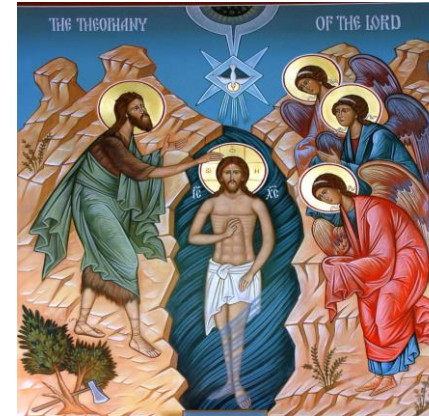
Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 tile 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT
Sunday After Theophany — January 12, 2020



THE THREE KINDS OF BAPTISM

WATER BAPTISM This is the normal sacrament of baptism with water, in imitation of Jesus Christ (Mt 3:13) and in obedience to His commandment. (Mt 28:29)	BAPTISM BY BLOOD This is received by those who, without having been baptized, give their lives as martyrs for Christ. (Rc 1:25B)	BAPTISM OF DESIRE? This is received by those who, desiring Baptism, die before receiving it. (CIC 1259)
--	--	---

Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko
 Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter
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 – Vigil
 Holy Days (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 Randy Baden (412) 973-1085 for membership requirements.
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: (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

As the prophet foretold, a Great Light, Christ, has shown upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali. A people living in darkness have seen a Great Light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is a protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today (Ikos of Theophany Matins).

January 12, 2020

Seasonal Greeting (Jan 5-14):

Volume X, Number 2



Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!
Christos Krescajtsja! — Vo Jordani!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

Sunday after the Enlightenment

Sun., Jan 12 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Barbara + Andrew + Mary Ivano Julia Haluska
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Peter A. Smoley Dgtr: Mary Ann
(47th ann of passing 1/17)



Mon., Jan 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Simunich & Bulik Families
of Paulette, Thomas & Ivan

Final Day of the Theophany Feast

Tue., Jan 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Basil P. Gramata Son: George & Jennie Marinock

Wed., Jan 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Maletz Son: Bob & Martha



Thrs., Jan 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health of Judith Friend

Venerable Father Anthony the Great

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINANCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for Peace in the whole world

Fri., Jan 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Kodik Anonymous.
(1st ann of passing 1/11)

Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity

Sat., Jan 18 9:00 a.m. (NS) Special Intention The Singing Revilak Family

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 32nd Sunday after Pentecost – 2nd day of prayer for Christian Unity

4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

The 32nd Sunday after Pentecost

2nd day of prayer for Christian Unity

Sun., Jan 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Charles Petruna Daughters
(41st ann of passing 1/18)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. Valeriano & Kallop Families
(birthday 1/12)

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 date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners.

Birthdays: Jan 12 – Michael Harsh, Michael Tomchak; Jan 13 – Mariella Kassabov, Noreen Muha; Jan 14 – Diane Bell, James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole, Anna Mae Sejka; Jan 15 – William Boros; Jan 16 – Edward Connor; Jan 18 – Michael Ferrell.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, 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. Why must we practice Simple Abstinence (no meat) or do an Equivalent Penance (your choice) on Fridays? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Church asks us to abstain from meat or accomplish an Equivalent Penance on Fridays as a means of offering our bodies as a living sacrifice in union with Christ (Rom. 12:1; CCC 1434). The purpose is not to make life tough for us, but only asks us to do what is ultimately good for us. We are obliged to do some sort of penance virtually every Friday because it is the day of Jesus' Crucifixion, the ultimate sacrifice (CCC 1438). We do penance for several reasons: (1) As a way to atone for sins of the past, both ours and others (Col. 1:24); (2) To learn to master our inclinations towards sin (Jas. 1:2-4); (3) To help us prepare for the spiritual feast of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter & every Sunday; (4) As a sign of our conversion; and (5) As a way to purify our soul (CCC 2043).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jan. 12, 2020 — Jan. 18, 2020

(MR) In memory of Terrek & Mikovitz Families

offered by Mildred Terrek

(NS): In memory of Michael Korim, Jr. (birthday 1/14)

(MR) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020

offered by Nephew: Fr. Firko

(NS) STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020



Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

ECF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM TODAY — The second semester for the *ECF Program* commences today, **January 12, 2020** following the Weekend Divine Liturgy. 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) 897-4650. 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.

A NOTE FROM THE AREA MEALS-ON-WHEELS — We have just received a letter of gratitude for our parochial donation collected from your contribution envelopes ‘for the poor’: *“Reverend Firko & Holy Ghost Parishioners, the Staff and volunteers of the Sto-Ken-Rox Meals-On-Wheels thank you so very much for your generous Christmas donation of \$366.50 to the M-O-W Program. We greatly appreciate your help and concern to serve the needy in our community. May all of you have a Blessed New Year,”*— Carol Vevers, Treasurer.

A NOTE FROM FAMILY FOUNDATION/EHS FOR THE ANGEL TREE GIFTS — This past week the following communication arrived at the Church: *“Dear Barb, Peter, GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge, Fr. Firko & Holy Ghost Parishioners: We want to express our appreciation for your continual generosity in support of our families from Family Foundations/ Early Head Start. Your constant commitments were incredibly helpful and allowed our families to have a wonderful holiday. The children loved each gift that they received. Thanks again for all you have done. God bless, Staff at Family Foundations.”*

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED FORTHCOMING — We will gather next **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.

Holy Ghost, Northside

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED — Following the Divine Liturgy next **Sunday, January 19, 2020**, we are asking all volunteers to help put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider offering an hour of your time, especially if you weren’t able to help in the set up.

The Effects of Holy and Sanctified Water

The Catechism teaches that the sacramentals, consequently holy water, operate principally by means of the Church’s intercession (CCC 1667). The Church is the bride of the Divine Savior, and hence her prayers are always pleasing to God. When the Church prays, the divine bridegroom prays with her, and for this reason her prayer is powerful with God. Thus, it may happen that a lukewarm Christian may derive great benefit from the use of holy water. The reason for this is that God looks not on the unworthiness of mankind but rather on the prayer of the Church, so pleasing to Him. Especially, though, will the loyal children of the Church, who seek to coordinate their ideas to those of the divine Savior and of the Church, participate in the blissful effects of holy water.

1. Use holy water to drive away the devil; 2. Use holy water to overcome temptations; 3. You can use holy water to drive away sickness – and future illness too; 4. Holy water cleanses soul from venial sins and temporal punishments; 5. Take advantage of those sanctifying effects found with holy water; and 6. Use holy water for the comfort and release of the holy souls in Purgatory.

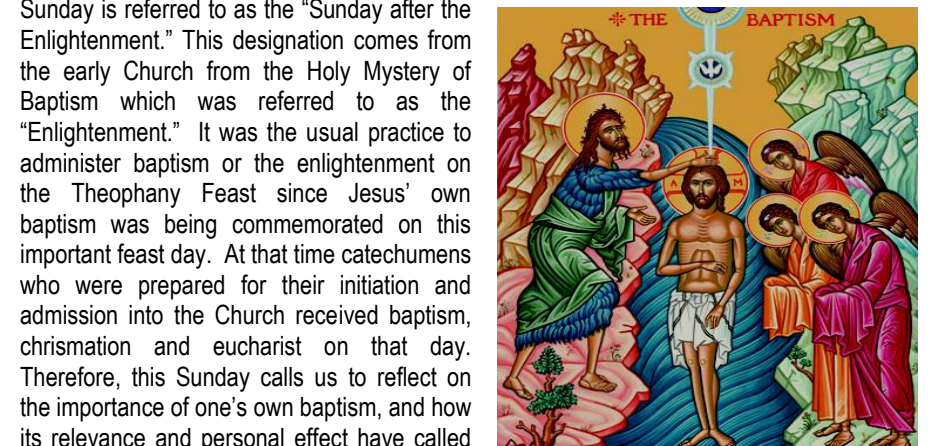


CONTINUING THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST Sunday after the Enlightenment

GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17



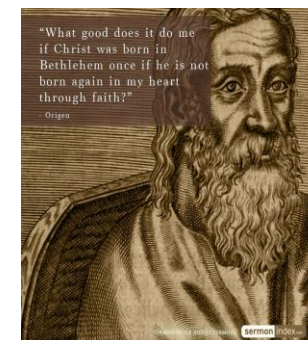
We are currently in the postfestive period of Holy Theophany, and it is designated to be a continuation of Our Lord Jesus’ Baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This Sunday is referred to as the “Sunday after the Enlightenment.” This designation comes from the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the “Enlightenment.” It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus’ own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared for their initiation and admission into the Church received baptism, chrismation and eucharist on that day. Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one’s own baptism, and how its relevance and personal effect have called us to be God’s new chosen people. What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with Jesus’ Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us? During this special year of Mercy, take this Sunday’s celebration to heart and recommit yourself to Christ since He promises eternal life and great mercy.



Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one’s own baptism, and how its relevance and personal effect have called us to be God’s new chosen people. What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with Jesus’ Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us? During this special year of Mercy, take this Sunday’s celebration to heart and recommit yourself to Christ since He promises eternal life and great mercy.

The (Church) Fathers Know Best

The Early Church Fathers believed that being baptized was being born again.



They baptized both adults and infants and they used three methods; immersion, pouring and sprinkling. **Tertullian:** “No one can attain salvation without baptism, especially in view of the declaration of the Lord, who says, “Unless a man shall be born of water, he shall not have life” (On Baptism 12:1 [A.D. 203]). **Origen:** “The Church received from the apostles the tradition of giving baptism even to infants. The apostles, to whom were committed the secrets of divine sacraments, knew there is in everyone innate strains of [original] sin, which must be washed away through water and the Spirit” (Commentaries on Romans 5:9 [A.D. 248])

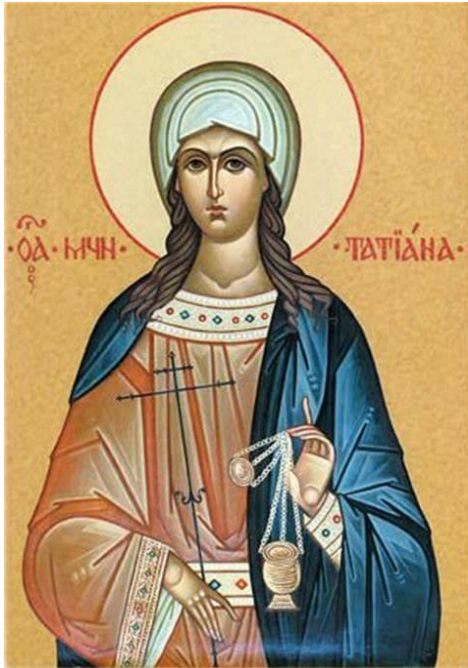
Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 47th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion.
 January 30 Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs – Simple Holy Day – (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 pm.
 February 2 .Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy. We commence 15 minutes earlier.

Saint of the Week — January 12

The Holy Woman Martyr Tatiana

Tatiana was a Roman whose parents were of great nobility. She was a Christian and a deaconess in the church. After the death of Emperor Heliogabalus, Emperor Alexander, whose mother Mammaea was a Christian, reigned in Rome. The emperor himself was wavering and indecisive in the Faith for he kept statues of Christ, Apollo, Abraham and Orpheus in his palace. His chief assistants persecuted the Christians without the emperor's orders. When they brought out the virgin Tatiana for torture, she prayed to God for her torturers. And behold, their eyes were opened and they saw four angels around the martyr. Seeing this, eight of them believed in Christ for which they also were tortured and slain. The tormentors continued to torture St. Tatiana. They whipped her, cut off parts of her body; they



scraped her with irons. All disfigured and bloody, Tatiana was thrown into the dungeon that evening so that the next day, they could, again, begin anew with different tortures. But God sent His angels to the dungeon to encourage her and to heal her wounds so that, each morning, Tatiana appeared before the torturers completely healed. They threw her before a lion, but the lion endeared himself to her and did her no harm. They cut off her hair, thinking, according to their pagan reasoning, that some sorcery or some magical power was concealed in her hair. Finally, Tatiana along with her father were both beheaded. Thus, Tatiana ended her earthly life about the year 225 A.D., and this heroic virgin, who had the fragile body of a woman but a robust and valiant spirit, was crowned with the immortal wreath of glory.

General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK — Just a reminder that The Feast of Holy Theophany – The Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, celebrated this past week on **January 6 was a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.** The Canon Law of our Byzantine Catholic Church states: “The Christian faithful are bound by the obligation to participate on Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation) in the Divine Liturgy” (Canon 881#1); and “are recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on these days ...”

(Canon 881 #3); “and should abstain from those labors or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God” (Canon 881 #4). Negligence of this church precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntarily neglect. Please come to Confession before approaching Holy Communion.

WHY YOUR HOME SHOULD BE BLESSED EACH YEAR — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our home, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office.



PLEASE WRITE AMOUNT ON YOUR ENVELOPES — Often times when our devoted Counters are dealing with several different envelopes (Sundays, Holy Days, Special Collections, etc.) it is possible that a donation slips by without a written amount indicated. Would you please help us and place the amount on your envelope?!? Be sure that your checks are signed with the new year and that you place the contribution in the envelope or if several envelopes with one check attach with a paperclip. Often we receive an envelope with nothing inside. **Submit all envelopes even if writing one check.** It helps our bookkeeping!

EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY — This Saturday commences the *Annual Eight Days of Prayer* for the intention of Christian Unity. Each year from January 18-25, Christians unite to pray in the same sentiments that Jesus prayed to the Father: “*That all may be one ... so that the world may believe.*” (John 17:21). **This year's theme is: “They showed us unusual kindness”** (Acts 27:18-28:10). As Catholics who have the fullness of the faith that Jesus established, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Pray each day: **“O Almighty and Merciful God, You willed that the different nations should become one people through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. In this may Your name be glorified Father, Son (+), and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.”**

