

## Parish Offerings – Man Born Blind Sunday — May 17, 2020

“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 (\$1,558) YP (\$15)	\$1,573.00
Pentecost (\$110) Holy Days (\$140)	250.00
Seminary	65.00
Votive Candles	70.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,958.00

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$335.00
Pentecost (\$10) Holy Days (\$60)	70.00
Utilities (\$25) Improvements (\$10) Seminary (\$10)	45.00
Candles	32.50
	<hr/>
	\$482.50

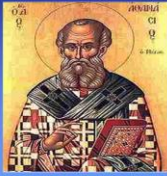
### NO PUBLIC LITURGICAL SERVICES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

\*\*\* Unfortunately, during the Covid-19 Virus shut-down, our parishes expenses (utilities, insurance, etc.) will continue through this period of confinement. For those of you sending in your weekly offerings, thank you for your thoughtfulness in helping your parish meet its fiduciary responsibilities. Thank you all who have been mailing your weekly donations. It is greatly appreciated.

#### The Church has faithfully passed on the belief in three persons in one God.

At the first ecumenical council in Nicaea (AD 325), St. Athanasius strongly defended the doctrine of the Trinity against the heresy of Arianism.

An ecumenical council is an official gathering of the bishops of the world under the direction of the pope.



#### ARIANISM: THE FINAL OVERVIEW

- WHAT: Arianism
- WHO: Arius
- WHEN: Fourth Century
- WHERE: Roman Empire/Constantinople
- CENTRAL BELIEF: Jesus was not Divine, but anointed by God to the position of “Supreme ‘Human’ Being”
- VIEW OF CHRIST: Jesus was not Divine; was a Supreme “Human” Being



**Valerian F. Szal**  
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McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
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**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

## SUNDAY OF 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUMENCIL COUNCIL

### Postfestive of the Ascension — May 24, 2020



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

**The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor**

**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](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: Until further notice by calling the Church Office.

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 Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.

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

*All Public Liturgical Services continue to be suspended for gatherings of more than 25 individuals. However, since the McKees Rocks Parish has access to the internet and Sundays to the WEDO RADIO Station 810 AM that outreaches the homebound, all listed are considered Private Liturgical Services which will be offered. This schedule is published for transparency in which the Pastor will privately offer the intentions stated and lists the times to participate via MR's internet.*

May 24, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 21



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!  
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUM. COUNCIL</b> <b>Postfestive of the Ascension — 7<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday</b>			
<b>SUN., May 24</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. (MR)</b>	+ Eleanor Kulka (7 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/26)	Children: Kathy & John
	<b>11:00 a.m. (NS)</b>	+ Anna Spontak (16 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/22)	Son: Robert & Joyce
<b>Civic Holiday — Memorial Day Observed</b>			
Mon, May 25	*** 8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Edward Zotyak (birthday 5/19)	Wife: Florence
Tues, May 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Emory Holowatch (2 <sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 5/17)	Anne Myers.
Wed, May 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elizabeth Mross (5 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)	)Marge & James Lautenschlager
Thrs, MAY 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Peter M. Zappas (1 <sup>st</sup> ann of passing)	Family
<b>Final Day of the Ascension Feast</b> <b>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)</b>			
Fri, May 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna Muska	Bro: Mike



## Final Universal All Souls Saturday Vigil

\*\*\* 6:00 p.m. (NS) All Souls w/reading of Hramoty

## FIFTH & FINAL UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat., May 30 \*\*\* 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/reading of Hramoty



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John Bordas Dgr: Karen, Frank & Matthew Grzywinski

## SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

### Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast

SUN., May 31 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

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

# 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*

**Birthdays:** May 15 — George Lucas, Nicholas Rosko; May 27 — Edward Wovchko; May 28 — Anne Kurtanich.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuinas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrutak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, Olga Manfredo, Irene Muha, Mike Muska, Irene Palahunik, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, 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.  
**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, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Helen Hopey.

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

**Q.** What is the use of praying the Rosary every day? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Faithful repetition of the Rosary brings peace to the heart and abundant grace to the soul. Praying the Rosary inspires the heart with a more sincere love for the Holy Trinity and Our Lady. When we meditate on the twenty mysteries of the Rosary, we grow in love and understanding of the joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious events in Jesus' life. Anytime we can reflect on Jesus, we are sure to grow in holiness (CCC 2708) .... You may hear some Protestants say that repetitious prayer, like the Rosary, is condemned by Jesus (Mt. 6:7). This is not true. What is condemned in that verse is "vain" repetition (CCC 2668). This is meaningless repetition, not meaningful repetition. This verse was condemning a specific ritual of invoking pagan gods with a litany of specific names. It is not a condemnation of the Rosary, which was not developed for another thousand years. Regarding repetitious prayer, Jesus Himself prayed the same prayer three consecutive times to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26: 39-44). Also, the angels in Heaven are continually repeating "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty (Rev 4:8). Repetition is not condemned, only mindless or vain prayer.



## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**May 24 — May 30, 2020**

(MR): **In memory of the Margo Family**

offered by Margaret & James Lautenschlager

(NS): **In memory of Anna Spontak** (16<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/22)

(MR) All reserved for 2020

offered by Son: Robert & Joyce

(NS) All reserved for 2020





## General Announcements



### Mexican Priest Who Survived COVID: God Acts In the Midst of Suffering

**MEXICO CITY, Mexico** — When Fr. Antonio Pérez Hernández was recently hospitalized with COVID-19, he said he was able to witness firsthand how God is present in the midst of suffering. The priest shared his experience in a recent video posted by the archdiocese of Tlanepantla, Mexico, where he serves. After Father Pérez fell sick with the virus, he was admitted to a public hospital where he shared a room with other patients, some of whom died. “When I was in that place, there came a time when I did feel like God could call me into his presence,” he said. “And that’s when you discover abandonment, the total abandonment of saying to the Lord: ‘Here I am, if you want to call me, I am willing; if you want to leave me, I am also willing. I only ask that you please give me the strength to give absolution and attend to my brothers who are suffering from the disease just like I am’.” The priest said that despite the illness, his experience at the hospital was beautiful and freeing, because he “felt the loving presence of God.” While at the hospital, Father Pérez said he always introduced himself as a priest and gave absolution to the sick who requested it. He said he found Christ in the sick patients and was reminded that “we all need Jesus.” He witnessed four patients die, but said that after giving them absolution, he could see that “they were comforted, they were at peace.” Through constant prayer, the priest said he watched the hospital rooms be transformed into places of peace where the presence of God could be felt and encountered. When Father Pérez was discharged, he said some people told him, “Father we’re going to miss you, you gave us hope, you made us feel Christ in the midst of all this.” “I said to them: ‘Christ is going to stay with you. I am leaving, but Christ remains. God is not leaving you alone’,” he continued. Father Pérez believes God is using the pandemic to heal hearts. “God is making us see what is truly important,” he said. “Those of us who were there had no contact with family. Those who died, died without having any contact with the family,” father Pérez recounted, and stressed the importance of “valuing the presence of the family, valuing friends, valuing life.” “There comes a time when you only have your hospital gown, you have nothing,” he said, but at that moment “you experience that abandonment of saying to the Lord: ‘Lord, I have you. What more do I want if I have you?’” This article was originally published by our sister agency, ACI Prensa. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.

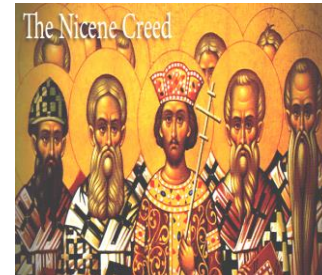
**As Byzantine Catholics we wear the color GREEN to signify the Life-Creating nature of the Holy Spirit who comes to bring us NEW LIFE. So please, when registering, remember to Wear GREEN Next Weekend!**

## THE SEVENTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

**The Core of Our Common Faith** (first read John 17: 1-13)

### Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Today, we are commemorating the Fathers of The First Council of Nicea held in the year 325 AD. It is the first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. *Most significantly, it resulted in the first, extra-biblical, uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.* With the creation of the creed, a precedent was established for subsequent local and regional councils of Bishops (Synods) to create statements of belief and canons of the true faith — the intent being to define unity of essential beliefs for the whole of Christendom. The council did not create the doctrine of the deity of Christ but it did settle, to some degree, the debate within the Early Christian communities regarding the divinity of



Christ. This idea of the divinity of Christ, along with the idea of Christ as a messenger from God (The Father), had long existed in various parts of the Roman Empire. The divinity of Christ had also been widely endorsed by the Christian community in the otherwise pagan city of Rome. The council affirmed and defined what it believed to be the teachings of the Apostles regarding who Christ is: that Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father. Derived from Greek "ecumenical" meaning "worldwide or universal." One purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements arising from within the Church of Alexandria over the nature of the Son in relationship to the Father. Saints Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius claimed that Christ is God and the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arianism comes, denied this claim. The council decided against the Arians overwhelmingly. Of the estimated 318 attendees, all but two agreed to sign the creed and these two, along with Arius, were banished to Illyria. Another result of the council was an agreement on when to celebrate Easter, the most important feast of the ecclesiastical calendar.

### Why we need the Catholic Church – In a Nutshell

We are made in God's image and likeness, meant for a deep, loving relationship with him. (Genesis 1:27); **2.** Due to sin, we have broken this friendship with God. (Romans 6:23); **3.** Jesus Christ, God's Son, became man, died on the cross, and rose from the grave for our salvation. (Philippians 2:7-10); **4.** We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and through Jesus our relationship with God is restored. (Ephesians 2:8); **5.** Through the Catholic Church which Jesus established while on earth, we have access to grace by Baptism and are nourished by the Eucharist and other sacraments. (Matthew 16:18-19); **6.** Through these sacraments, the Holy Spirit changes us, perfects us, fulfills our every desire, ultimately bringing us to eternal beatitude in heaven. (Matthew 5:48).

## Calendar of Upcoming PRIVATE Events via (MR) internet

May 25 ..... Memorial Day observed — Divine Liturgy @ 8:00 a.m.  
 May 29-30 ..... 5<sup>th</sup> & Final All Souls Saturday: Friday: (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
 May 31 ..... Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast.  
 June 1 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Pentecost — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 June 14 ..... Annual Flag Day.  
 June 20 ..... First day of summer.  
 June 24 ..... Nativity of St. John the Baptist — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 June 29 ..... Feast of Saints Peter & Paul — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.

## Commemorations of the Week

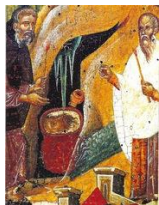
### MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED — May 25

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael who replied with her own poem conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael and when she returned to France, made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. Just as **ARMED FORCES DAY** (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of May) remembers those currently serving our country; **VETERANS DAY** remembers those living who have served our country; **MEMORIAL DAY** remembers those who paid the ultimate price of their lives for our freedom. Let us pause and pray for all those who died to keep us free!



### THE THIRD FINDING OF THE HEAD OF THE BAPTIST, JOHN

The Third Discovery of the Venerable Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John occurred in about the year 850 (see the account of the First and Second Discoveries on February 24). The head of St John the Forerunner was found in the city of Emesia during a time of unrest at Constantinople connected with the exile of St John Chrysostom (November 13). It was transferred to Komana during the Saracen raids (about 820-820) and it was hidden in the ground during a period of iconoclastic persecution. When the veneration of icons was restored, Patriarch Ignatius (847-857) saw in a vision the place where the head of St John the Forerunner was hidden. The patriarch communicated this to the emperor, who sent a delegation to Komana. There the head was found a third time around the year 850. Afterwards, the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and here on May 25 it was placed in a church at the court. Part of the head is on Mt. Athos. The Third Discovery of the Head of John the Baptist is commemorated on May 25.



## General Announcements

**PUBLIC LITURGICAL STILL SUSPENDED; PRIVATE OPEN BY REQUEST — To attend *Weekend Divine Liturgies, and the 5<sup>th</sup> All Souls on (NS) Friday @ 6:00 p.m. or (MR) Saturday @ 9:00 a.m. you MUST call the Church office to register before Wednesday @ 1:00 p.m. However, if you are ill or have health comprising situations, DO NOT attend. If you register and then become ill, please call the Church office and leave a message so that a standby may be contacted.*** The Church will not be providing masks, you must bring your own. Please do not challenge our volunteers at the door by not bringing and wearing a mask! While in Church, wear your mask and be sure to practice social distancing (6 feet apart except for families). Registration DOES NOT APPLY to the Daily Liturgical services. Our pastor will be wearing a mask and gloves for the distribution of Holy Communion. The Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy has resumed under these guidelines. Archbishop Skurla continues to dispense all the faithful of the Archeparchy from the Obligation.

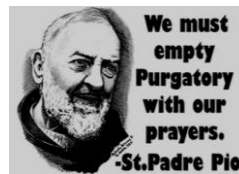
PICK UP THE PHONE.  
MAKE THAT CALL.



**PENTECOST DINNER CANCELLED; GRADUATES RECOGNIZED —** Due to the pandemic this year our Patronal Feast Dinner celebration has been cancelled. We usually honor all High School and University/College Graduates at this time. Our Parishes would still like to recognize them by announcing their milestone. If you are graduating, please call the Church Office A.S.A.P. and let us know where you are graduating from and what your future plans will be. **Final Day of registration is Pentecost Sunday, May 31.**



**FINAL ALL SOULS COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK —** The 5<sup>th</sup> and Final All Souls commemoration will be offered this coming **Friday, May 29 (NS); and Saturday, May 30 (MR).** This final Eucharistic Service in behalf of all Souls comes a day prior to The *Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, also known as Pentecost.* Our prayer is directed to God the Holy Spirit so as to grant eternal rest and a blessed repose to All Souls, especially the names submitted earlier. If you have not submitted the envelope this year there is still time — until this Thursday, May 28. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat! Come with love in your heart & pray for their repose!



**BI-PARTISAN PRO-LIFE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE —** PA Primary Election Day has been moved to Tuesday, **June 2.** Many of you have probably received your absentee ballot already. For those on the Church email roster, the ProLife Guide has already been sent to you. If you have not yet voted you are encouraged to consider those candidates who are truly dedicated to the Pro-Life position. Let us defend the most vulnerable of God's children and speak for them by our vote when they cannot speak or act for themselves. Imagine yourself in their position. Wouldn't you want someone to defend you when your life is threatened?! Take the guide with you to the polls. Jesus came so that we may have life and live it to its fullness! They are located in the narthex and side vestibule.

