

## Parish Offerings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — June 21, 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 (\$1,907) YP (\$20)	\$1,927.00
Holy Days	93.00
Peter's Pence (\$10) Radio Ministry (\$50) Eastern European (\$5)	65.00
Votive Candles (\$143.50) Initial (\$5)	148.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,233.50

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$589.00
Holy Days	36.00
Candles	70.50
	<hr/>
	\$695.50

## Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (36)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (47); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

Nativity of St. John the Baptist — Wed, Jun. 24 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (12); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (8)



**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*

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(412) 771-3324**

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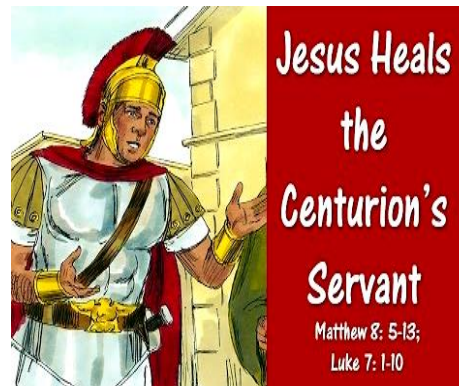
## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

3<sup>rd</sup> & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast — June 28, 2020



Jesus Heals  
the  
Centurion's  
Servant

Matthew 8: 5-13;  
Luke 7: 1-10



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: 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 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

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).

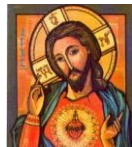
June 28, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 26



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### 3<sup>rd</sup> & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast

SUN., Jun 28 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + William Gogal (wed ann)



## Feast of the Holy Prime Apostles Peter and Paul

### Holy Day of Obligation

MON, JUN 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary Stecko Son: Peter & Barb Stecko  
(2<sup>nd</sup> ann. of passing 4/20)

### Synaxis of the Holy 12 Apostles

Tue, Jun 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Gramata (22<sup>nd</sup> ann. of passing 4/28) Eleanor & George

Wed, Jul 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Sendro (6<sup>th</sup> ann. of passing) Wife: Janet & Family

Thrs., Jul 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Mazur (10<sup>th</sup> ann. of pass. 7/9) Anne Chemsak & Mary Cveykus



### First Friday of the Month

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for religious freedom

Fri, Jul 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia Wovchko (1<sup>st</sup> ann. of passing 5/31) Nephew: John

## Independence Day — First Saturday of the Month

Sat, Jul 4 \*\*\* 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health, Welfare & Forgiveness of Sins of our Country

### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Andrew Kundrat, Sr. Theresa Kundrat



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Independence Weekend

SUN., Jul 5

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka

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



Children

# 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: Jun 29 – Patricia Kovacs; Jun 30 – Olivia Leasure, Nicholas Stilwell; Jul 1 – PAUL MITRO; Jul 2 – Joseph Mitro; Jul 4 – Michelle Cifrutlak.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrutlak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, Olga Manfredo, Irene Muha, Mike Muska, Irene Palahunik, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Anna May Sejka, 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, # 230, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Helen Hopey.

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

Q. Does baptism make a baby a child of God? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: In baptism a baby is made a child of God. Like circumcision in the Old Testament, baptism makes the baby a member of the family of God (Col 2:11-14; Jn 3:3-5; CCC 804). However, baptism is more powerful than circumcision because it is built on a better foundation — Jesus Christ and the new covenant He established (Heb 8:6-7). In fact, baptism does at least three things for the one being baptized: (1) It unites him or her to Jesus Christ (Gal 3:26-27; CCC 790); (2) By infusing sanctifying grace, baptism gives supernatural life to a soul previously dead because of original sin (Sanctifying grace is necessary for salvation.) In adults, baptism also removes actual sins that were committed before baptism (Rom 6:3-5, 11; Col 2:11-14; CCC 405, 1263-66); and (3) It makes the baptized person a member of the Church (Jn 3:3-5; CCC 1267).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

## June 28 — July 4, 2020

(MR): In memory of Michael Sendro (6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

offered by Wife: Janet & Family

(NS): In memory of Mary Agnes Kress (birthday 6/28)

All reserved for 2020

offered by Son: William & Kathryn

(NS) All reserved for 2020



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of long-time parishioner, **Helen (Kurucz) Long, 95**, formerly of McKees Rocks, prior to residing with family in Parma, OH. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks, handled the arrangements. She is survived by two daughters, Michele (Robert) Trompak, and Gloria (Vincent) Ritchie, and the late Richard and Christian, and husband John. A Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Friday, June 26 @ 10:00 a.m. She will be interred at a later date; Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Helen, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!



**SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC/FAC MEETING** — At last week's PAC/FAC Meeting, **June 20, 2020**, discussion on the following topics were presented (1) Review of the 2019 General Financial Statement; Report will appear in Sunday's S.O.T. The reason for the delay, for all parishes in the archeparchy, was in awaiting the report from the new CEO Officer who was appointed; (2) Discussion of the parking lot being sealed and cracks filled for a cost of \$2,600. Gratefully acknowledging the Pirohi Project for subsidizing this project (3) Discussion of the new placement of the gym heating and cooling project by Gravener H & C of Pittsburgh; (4) Discussion if our Annual Church Picnic slated for August will still be scheduled due to the pandemic. We will contact them to see if any regulations are in place during the pandemic; (5) discussion of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (A.I.U.) wishing to renew a 2-year school lease, and (6) rescheduling the date of our E.C.F. student to receive her First Confession and Renewal of Baptismal Promises.



## Northside

**CHURCH TO HAVE A HEAVY-DUTY PROFESSIONAL CLEANING** — The May & May Cleaning Company, Ambridge, has been contracted to give a thorough cleaning to the Church interior and washrooms during the second week in July. Two anonymous parishioners will take care of the expenses. We are very grateful to them and seek God's blessings for their monetary sacrifice.

## AN INTERESTING LOOK AT AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

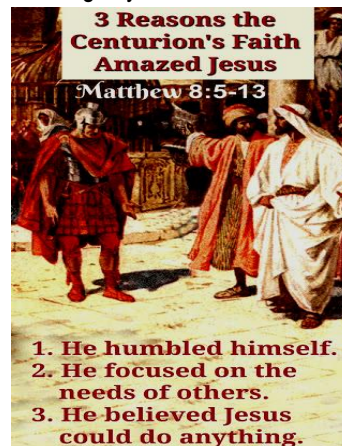
**(WIKIPEDIA)** — During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it two days later on July 4. The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.



## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### The Centurion Teaches Us to Believe! — (Matthew 8:5-13)

This centurion was a heathen, a Roman soldier. Though he was a soldier, yet he was a godly man. No man's calling or place will be an excuse for unbelief and sin. See how he states his servant's case. *We should concern ourselves for the souls of our children and servants, who are spiritually sick, who feel not spiritual evils, who know not that which is spiritually good; and we should bring them to Christ by faith and prayers.* Observe his self-abasement. Humble souls are made more humble by Christ's gracious dealings with them. Observe his great faith. The more diffident we are of ourselves, the stronger will be our confidence in Christ. Herein the centurion owns him to have Divine power, and a full command of all the creatures and powers of nature, as a master over his servants. Such servants we all should be to God; we must go and come, according to the directions of his word and the disposals of his providence. But when the Son of man comes he finds little faith, therefore he finds little fruit. An outward profession may cause us to be called children of the kingdom; but if we rest in that, and have nothing else to show, we shall be cast out. The servant got a cure of his disease, and the master got the approval of his faith. What was said to him, is said to all, Believe, and you will receive; only believe. See the power of Christ, and the power of faith. The healing of our souls is at once the effect and evidence of our interest in the blood of Christ.



## Who Were Roman Centurions?

In ancient Rome the "centurion" meant "captain of 100", and the Roman centurion was captain over 100-foot soldiers in a legion. The Army of Rome consisted of three types of soldiers: The Praetorian Guard (Caesar's bodyguard), The Legionaries (infantry soldiers and officers made up of citizens), and The Auxiliaries (non-citizen troops). The centurion was loyal and courageous, beginning as a soldier in the army and working their way up the ranks. They were noticed by the general for their skill and courage in battle, and were made officers. The number of centurions in a legion was 60, that being at all epochs the number of centuries, although the number varied in the cohort or speira. **The ordinary duties of the centurion were to drill his men, inspect their arms, food and clothing, and to command them in the camp and in the field.** Centurions were sometimes employed on detached service the conditions of which in the provinces are somewhat obscure. Men like Cornelius and Julius (Acts 10:1; 27:1) may have been separated from the legion to which they properly belonged for the discharge of special duties. They and other centurions mentioned in the Gospels and the Acts (Mt 8:5; Mk 15:39, 44, 45; Lk 23:47) are represented by the sacred writers in a favorable light.



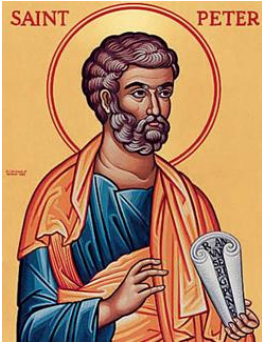
# Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 4 ..... A special (MR) 9:00 a.m. Patriotic Divine Liturgy.  
 July 20 ..... Simple Holy Day: Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles.  
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 August 1 - 14 ..... Commencement of the Saviorial Fast (Spasovka).

## Holy Day of Obligation this Week — June 29

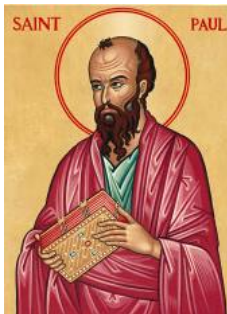
### THE HOLY APOSTLE PETER

The son of Jonah and brother of Andrew the First-Called, of the tribe of Simeon and the town of Bethsaida, he was a fisherman and was at first called Simon, but the Lord was pleased to call him Cephas, or Peter (Jn 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to give clear expression to his faith in the Lord Jesus, saying: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Mt 16:16). His love for the Lord was very strong, and his faith in Him went from strength to strength. When the Lord was put on trial, Peter denied him three times, but it needed only one look into the face of the Lord, and Peter's soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter became a fearless and powerful preacher of the Gospel. After his first sermon in Jerusalem, about 3,000 souls were converted to the Faith. He preached the Gospel throughout Palestine and Asia Minor, in Italy and Illyria. He performed many wonders, healing the sick and raising the dead, and even his shadow had the power of healing the sick. He had a major struggle with Simon the Magician, who declared himself to be from God but was actually a servant of the devil. He finally put him to shame and overcame him. Peter was condemned to death on the order of the wicked Emperor Nero, a friend of Simon's. After installing Linus as Bishop of Rome and exhorting and encouraging the flock of Christ there, Peter went to his death with joy. When he saw the cross before him, he asked the executioner to crucify him upside-down, because he felt himself unworthy to die in the same way as his Lord. And so, this great servant of the greatest Master went to his rest and received a crown of eternal glory.



### THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL

Born in Tarsus and of the tribe of Benjamin, he was formerly called Saul and studied under Gamaliel. He was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christians. He was wondrously converted to the Christian faith by the Lord Himself, who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He was baptized by the Apostle Ananias, named Paul and enrolled in the work of the Great Apostles. He preached the Gospel everywhere with burning zeal, from the borders of Arabia to the land of Spain, among both the Jews and the heathen, and receiving the title of "The Apostle to the Gentiles." His fearful sufferings were matched only by his superhuman endurance. Through all the years of his preaching, he hung from day to day like a thread between life and death. Filling his days and nights with toil and sufferings for Christ, organizing the Church in many places and receiving a high level of perfection, he was able to say: "I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20). He was beheaded in Rome in the reign of Nero, at the same time as St. Peter was being crucified.

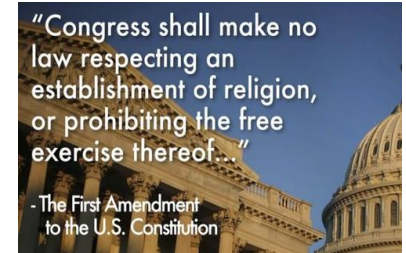


# General Announcements

**REGISTER FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE** — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. This celebration has been extended on a new format. It will take place on **Sunday, September 13, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Elias Church, Munhall.** If you are observing one of the above milestones, *please contact the Church office if you plan or DO NOT plan to attend!* All anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. *The final day of registration is Sunday, July 26.*



**PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONTINUES — DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY** — Catholic eparchies and dioceses across the Commonwealth are continuing Religious Freedom Week which began **June 22 and continues through June 29:** Let us stand up and learn, defend, proclaim the Truth of our Faith and by offering this prayer for Religious Freedom: **O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome — for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us — this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen."**



## Did You Know this about The Declaration of Independence?

**John Hancock**, the President of the Continental Congress at the time, was the first and only person to sign the Declaration on July 4, 1776 (he signed it in the presence of just one man, Charles Thomson, the secretary of Congress). According to legend, the founding father signed his name bigger than everyone else's because he wanted to make sure "fat old King George" could read it without his spectacles. But the truth is that Hancock had a large blank space and didn't realize the other men would write their names smaller. Today, the term "John Hancock" has become synonymous with a person's signature. **Thomas Jefferson** and **John Adams**, the only two presidents to sign the document, both died on the Fourth of July in 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration. Adam's last words have been reported as "Thomas Jefferson survives." He did not know that Jefferson had died only a few hours before. **James Monroe**, the last president who was a Founding Father, also died on July 4 in 1831. **Calvin Coolidge**, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872, and, so far, is the only President to have been born on Independence Day.

