

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday after Pentecost — June 28, 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 (\$2,296) YP (\$9)	\$2,305.00
Holy Days	382.00
Peter's Pence	323.00
Votive Candles	170.50
	<hr/>
	\$3,180.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$540.00
Holy Days	31.00
Utilities (\$20) Archdiocesan Charities (\$2) Collection for the Poor (\$4)	26.00
Candles	41.50
	<hr/>
	\$638.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (47); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)

SS. Peter & Paul — Mon, Jun. 29 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (29); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (16)



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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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A Fraternal Benefit Society

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get-well wishes, etc.
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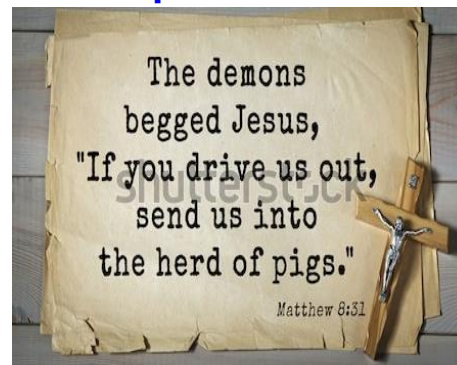
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Independence Weekend — July 5, 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 – 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 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).

July 5, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 27



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
5th 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
Mom, Jul 6	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Maletz		Bro: Bob & Martha
Tue, Jul 7	8:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving (15 th wed ann)		Dianna & John J. Koza, III
Wed, Jul 8	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Jennie E. Timulak		Becky & Michael Mozuch
Thrs, Jul 9	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowach		Anne Meyers

Venerable Father Anthony of the Caves

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for vanquishing covid-19

Fri, Jul 10  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

Sat, Jul 11 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr. Grandson: Mike Tomchak
(7th ann of passing 7/12)



6th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Jul 12 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health of Jerry Rihn Julia Haluska
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll Son: William

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: Jul 6 – Stephen Kosko; Jul 7 – Timothy Bedard, Anna Stebbins, MSGR. PETER P. TAY; Jul 9 – Albert Kovacs, John Kutchmark, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS; Jul 10 – Albert Kovacs, Jr.; Jul 11 – Dolores Kosko.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, 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. How long before the Divine Liturgy should we abstain from eating? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: The Church requires that we abstain from eating for one hour before receiving the Eucharist (CCC 1387). Technically, you could eat something before a longer Divine Liturgy and still receive the Eucharist, as long as communion time was an hour after you ate. The point of the Eucharistic Fast is to prepare us to receive Jesus with greater yearning. Fasting prior to the Divine Liturgy is the appropriate way to prepare ourselves for receiving Jesus. It just doesn't seem right to have a chocolate doughnut or a cheeseburger in our stomachs just a few minutes before we receive the Creator of the universe.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

July 5 — July 11, 2020

(MR): In memory of John Bordas (9th ann of passing 7/4)
offered by Wife: Irene

(NS): In memory of Agnes Kacsur

All reserved for 2020 offered by Niece: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) All reserved for 2020



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SINCERE GRATITUDE EXTEND AS WE ENDURE THE PADEMIC — It has not been an easy few months as we continue enduring a nationwide pandemic of covid-19. Both of our Holy Ghost Churches have been doing its best to conform to local regulations. Since Allegheny County has stepped back a notch this week, we will continue to mark off pews and receiving Holy Communion via social distancing. The only change will be that the main doors of the Church will now be open to alleviate crowding at the side entrance. Thank you for patiently enduring our setup. Remember that if you are ill please do not attempt to be present until you are well. Our [Youtube.com Holy Ghost Church Live Stream](#) has been working well although on occasion we loose color and have to revert to black and white video.



Northside

A MARRIAGE OFFICIALLY BLESSED BY THE CHURCH — This past Thursday, July 2, 2020, a convalidated marriage occurred uniting **Joanna Elena (Getting) Spontak and Bradley Joseph Spontak** with the full blessings of the Church. Witnesses are Kellie A. and Edward C. Spontak, II. We offer the newly wedded couple our most sincere congratulations and prayerful solicitude that God grant them many happy and blessed years. Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



RETIRED FORMER PASTOR MARKS BIRTHDAY — One of the longest assigned pastors of our Holy Ghost Church was **Monsignor Peter P. Tay**. Besides his pastoral duties, he was also assigned with Archieparchial duties at the Chancery. On July 7th, he will be observing a milestone 95th Birthday! I'm sure that he would appreciate receiving a birthday card from you. His address: 1200 San Pedro, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. May God grant to His servant, the Priest, Monsignor Tay, health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

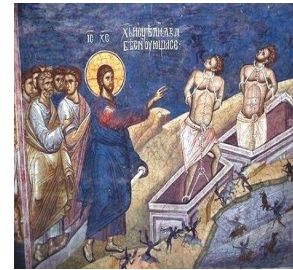


CHURCH TO HAVE A HEAVY-DUTY PROFESSIONAL CLEANING — The Maye & Maye Cleaning Company, Ambridge, will begin giving the Church interior thorough cleaning and also, the washrooms beginning tomorrow, July 6. Two anonymous parishioners will take care of the expenses. Once again, we are very grateful to them and seek God's blessings for their monetary sacrifice.

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Demons in today's Holy Gospel — Read Matthew 8:28-9:1

St. John Chrysostom says about this account, "Look at what the demons did when they were cast out of the men." They entered into the swine, and caused the swine to run violently down to their own death. St. John says that is what the demons want to do to each one of us. They want to cause us to run violently down to our death. He says, "Do not be deceived. You have many foes. Just because you can't see them with your natural eyes does not mean they are not there. Just because you are not aware of them every second of every day does not mean they do not follow you around, because they do. They huddle around you." What they seek is to enter you so that they may cause you to rush violently to your own death. This is the nature of our spiritual struggle. In 1 Peter 5:8, St. Peter says that our adversary the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." If we are going to fight the spiritual war, if we are going to live out this Christian life, then we must be aware every second of every day that the demons are there, and that they are looking for just one opening, just one second when we are not paying attention, one look that is not carefully guarded, one movement of anger, jealousy, or envy in our heart. The demons look for opportunities to destroy us. The demons never take a day off. But very often those thoughts are suggestions of the evil one. Satan and the demons are very skillful at suggesting thoughts to us and then leaving so quickly that we don't see that it was the demons that placed those thoughts in our head. They're very skillful at lining up all the facts to prove the thought. We beat Satan and the demons with the name of Jesus. It's a wonderful image of Satan and the demons in this Gospel passage, where the demons flex their muscles and scream at Jesus, "What have we to do with You?" The name of Jesus is more powerful than any demon. The name of Jesus strikes fear into the heart of Satan and all his minions. That is why the name of Jesus is to be on our lips with every breath. If we center our thoughts on the name of Jesus, then Satan will not get us with any other thoughts. That's why the Fathers say that we descend with our mind into our heart, and we guard our mind with our heart, because the name of Jesus is our protection: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." When Jesus says, "Go," the demons flee.



The Devil has not Full Power

"Among the angelic powers the chief of the terrestrial order, the one to whom God had entrusted the task of looking after the earth, was not evil by nature, he had not received any trace of evil from his Creator. He was good. However, he did not maintain the light and the honor that God had given him. By a deliberate act of his own free will he rebelled against the Creator. He turned his face away from goodness and fell into evil. Evil is in fact merely the absence of good, as darkness is the absence of light. A host of angels placed under his command followed him in the fall. Despite their angelic nature, they also freely plunged from goodness down to evil and became wicked. The devils cannot do anything against us without God's permission. But with God's permission they are powerful. All wickedness, all the passions are inspired by them but listen: God allows them to suggest sin to a person, but they cannot force him to do it. We ourselves are responsible for accepting or rejecting their seductive suggestions." --- By St. John Damascene - *The True Faith*, 2, 4 (PG94,873ff.)



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 Savorial Fast (Spasovka).

August 6 ... Feast of the Holy Transfiguration – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) 6:00 p.m. Blessing of grapes and fruits.

August 14 Vigil of the Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (NS) 6:00 pm Obligation.

August 15 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 9:00 am; Obligation.

Saint of the Week

Venerable Father Sisoës the Great

July 6

Saint Sisoës the Great (+ 429) was a solitary monk, pursuing asceticism in the Egyptian desert in a cave sanctified by the prayerful labors of his predecessor, Saint Anthony the Great (January 17). For his sixty years of labor in the desert, Saint Sisoës attained to sublime spiritual purity and he was granted the gift of wonderworking, so that by his prayers he once restored a dead child back to life. Extremely strict with himself, Abba Sisoës was very merciful and compassionate to others, and he received everyone with love. To those who visited him, the saint first of all always taught humility. When one of the monks asked how he might attain to a constant remembrance of God, Saint Sisoës remarked, *“That is no great thing, my son, but it is a great*



thing to regard yourself as inferior to everyone else. This leads to the acquisition of humility.” Asked by the monks whether one year is sufficient for repentance if a brother sins, Abba Sisoës said, “I trust in the mercy of God that if such a man repents with all his heart, then God will accept his repentance in three days.” When Saint Sisoës lay upon his deathbed, the disciples surrounding the Elder saw that his face shone like the sun. They asked the dying man what he saw. Abba Sisoës replied that he saw Saint Anthony, the prophets, and the apostles. His face increased in brightness, and he spoke with someone. The monks asked, “With whom are you speaking, Father?” He said that angels had come for his soul, and he was entreating them to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, “You have no need for repentance, Father” Saint Sisoës said with great humility, “I do not think that I have even begun to repent.” After these words the face of the holy abba shone so brightly that the brethren were not able to look upon him. Saint Sisoës told them that he saw the Lord Himself. Then there was a flash like lightning, and a fragrant odor, and Abba Sisoës departed to the Heavenly Kingdom. **The icon above depicts Saint Sisoës the Great at the tomb of [Alexander the Great](#) (16th c., [Varlaam monastery](#), [Meteora](#)), signifying the remembrance of death.**

General Announcements

GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE LENDS A HELPING HAND TO FISHER HOUSE — Our local GCU Lodge is once again this year collecting items to help Pittsburgh's VA Fisher House. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is a 10-bedroom "home away from home" and provides a place for visiting families to stay, free of charge, while their loved ones receive inpatient medical care at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is professionally furnished and features a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room with a library, and toys for children. They are requesting assistance in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Boxes will be placed at the side vestibule and narthex areas of both parishes for the **collection that will extend to August 2**. Needed items are listed on a stationery sheet near the Churches entrances. Let's help our afflicted veterans and their families by supporting the Lodge in this collection!



ON-GOING REGISTRATION 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.*



Priests are given the Authority to Forgive Sins by God

Here are examples of what early Christian writers had to say on the subject of confession: The following is from **St. John Chrysostom (+ 407 a.d.)**: *“Priests have received a power which God has given neither to angels nor to archangels. It was said to them: ‘Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose, shall be loosed.’ Temporal rulers have indeed the power of binding; but they can only bind the body. Priests, in contrast, can bind with a bond which pertains to the soul itself and transcends the very heavens. Did [God] not give them all the powers of heaven? ‘Whose sins you shall forgive,’ he says, ‘they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.’ What greater power is there than this? The Father has given all judgment to the Son. And now I see the Son placing all this power in the hands of men [Matt. 10:40; John 20:21–23]” (The Priesthood 3:5 [A.D. 387]).*

