

**Parish Offerings – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — August 2, 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 (\$3,403.50) YP (\$13)	.....	\$3,416.50
Holy Days	.....	72.00
Special Donation by M/M James Walsh	.....	50.00
Votive Candles	.....	105.00
		<hr/>
		\$3,643.50

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

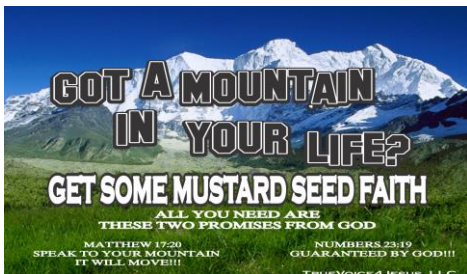
Regular Offering	.....	\$476.00
Holy Days	.....	43.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvement (\$60)	.....	80.00
Votive Candles	.....	36.00
		<hr/>
		\$635.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (48)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (38); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (21)

Feast of the Transfiguration — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (20); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (16)



**Valerian F. Szal**  
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331-9713  
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**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
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**GCU**  
Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
A Fraternal Benefit Society  
Northwestern Lodge offers  
Insurance & Annuity Benefits greater  
than most financial institutions. Info  
call Tina (412) 859-9597

**Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday,  
Michael Maslaney!  
May God grant you  
many happy & blessed  
years! Na Mnohaja I  
Blahaja L'ital  
From: Christine & Al**

**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.**

**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 10<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Postfestive of the Transfiguration — August 9, 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.
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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).

August 9, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 32



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

SUN., Aug 9 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) Convalidation Nuptial Blessing of Thanksgiving Brad & Joanna Spontak

Mon, Aug 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Milan J. Jugan (1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 7/20) Wife: Irene & Family

Tue, Aug 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Bilak (12<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Grandson: MikeTomchak

**RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**  
for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church.& vanquishing of the coronavirus

Wed, Aug 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Edward Zotyak (4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/11) Wife: Florence

#### Final Day of the Transfiguration Feast

Thrs, Aug 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm

#### PREFESTIVE OF THE HOLY DORMITION &

Transposition of the Relics of Our Venerable Father Theodosius of the Caves

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**

for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church.& the vanquishing of the coronavirus

Fri, Aug 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy (birthday) Son: Kurt

Great Vespers w/ DL for the Dormition Feast — Solemn Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

\*\*\* 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary + Michael Korim, Jr. (ann of passings) Nephew: Fr. Firko

### Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

Holy Day of Obligation — Blessing of flowers & herbs

Solemn Blessing Flowers and Herbs

SAT, AUG 15 \*\*\* 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Eleventh after Pentecost — Postfestive of the Dormition

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Anna Kocak Niece: Dolores & Steve Kosko



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

Postfestive of the Dormition Feast

SUN., Aug 16 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes Knoll (birthday 8/18) 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: Aug 9 – Russell Keller, Frank Lipchick, Gregory Rosko; Aug 10 – Betty Wickline; Aug 12 – Linda Reiger, Erik Wenger; Aug 13 – Shane McCusker.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, 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 the Catholic Church allow birth control? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: One of the most awesome gifts God gave us is the ability to generate new life made in His image. Human beings (one male & one female) are co-creators with God in this process. Contraception deliberately thwarts this God-given gift by treating conception as an evil to be avoided. The sin of contraception may be committed by use of contraception pills, condoms, spermicides, physical or chemical "barriers," sterilization, and other means. None of these are morally acceptable forms of family planning. On the other hand, there are morally acceptable means of "regulating births." Natural Family Planning (NFP) uses the signs of a woman's natural monthly cycle to determine fertility. God deigned the marital act with two inherent meanings. These meanings are "written into" the act itself. They are the "unitive" or person-uniting meaning (Gn. 2:24) and the "procreative" or person-begetting meaning (Gn. 1:28). These two meanings are interrelated and are intended by God to be present in every act of copulation.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Aug 9 — Aug 15, 2020

(MR): Health & Welfare of Mickey Sejka

offered by Sisters: Alice & Anna May Sejka

(NS): In memory of Edward Zotyak (4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/11)

(MR) All reserved for 2020 offered by Wife: Florence (NS) All reserved for 2020

# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES LAST WEEK** — Renewing her Baptismal Promises, making her First Confession and received the Holy Eucharist together at the Saturday afternoon Vigil Divine Liturgy on **August 1, 2020 was ISABELLE GRACE WEGNER**. She reaffirmed her baptismal promises and in love promised to serve her Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ! Our parish offers its most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Isabelle on this most important event in her lives. May God grant to Isabelle many happy and blessed years! Gratitude is extended to Lori Rippole for having instructed her even through the coronavirus pandemic.



**CONTINUAL FLOODING IN CHURCH LIBRARY AREA** — Each time that we receive a torrential downpour, our library gets flooded. Much like our school basement, it is mixed with both rain and sewer water. The problem is also tied into the Convent Building which also gets flooded. This past week this occurrence happened twice this past week and several times over the summer. Matt Mertz Plumbing, Peoples Road, Pittsburgh who solved our school problem rendering satisfactory results were called in to evaluate the problem. Their proposal: (1) Excavate the interior sewer in the Convent to the Church replacing all interior sewer lines with PVC pipe to all floor drains originating through the foundation walls; (2) Haul away spoils, backfill with gravel and patch cement; and (3) to hydro jet lateral lines providing repair options as needed. This will be a several days project. The total cost: \$18, 500.00. Upon presentation to our Parish & Financial Advisory Councils, and the permission to incur this expenditure from the Chancery office, we will commence the project.



**WE ARE AWAITING THE REPAIR & CLEANING OF MOTHER MARY** — We received a proposal from the Alex Restoration & Masonry Repairs, New Castle, PA. They will complete the following work: (1) Repoint small open mortar joints on the base of the statue; (2) Clean the Statue; and (3) seal the statue. The total cost including a 10% discount is \$2,025.00. Thus far, we have received \$1,000.00 in donations. The remaining cost is \$1,025.00. This statue is of significance importance to our parish which existed several decades in what is now the parking lot near the school building. It serves as a sign of our Blessed Mother's protection upon our grounds. Each year on Memorial Day area veterans and local fire companies stop before it and offer a short remembrance service. They place a wreath since the pedestal that marks those who served our country. If you would like to donate to this project, please submit a plain envelope and print MOTHER MARY on it. Checks are to be made out to Holy Ghost Church. Your donation will be accredited on your individual financial statement for 2020. Mother Mary protect our Church and all our parishioners!



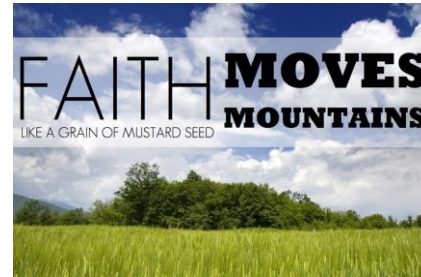
**NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE TO HAVE A VIRTUAL MEETING** — It has been decided to have the third quarterly meeting via Conference Call on **Sunday, August 23, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m.** (ET). Members are encouraged to participate by following the instructions: **Dial-in Number: 1 (605) 4725351 and then apply the Access Code 451303#**. In the meantime, we are continuing to collect supplies for the VA Fisher House at the entrances of the Church. Thanks to all who have donated thus far!

**Northside – No particular announcements this week**

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

## Do You Have A Mustard Seed Size Faith? (Mt 17: 14-23)

Faith that is the size of a mustard seed – even faith the size of the smallest seeds – is faith that can make a tree that can change the world. A person with faith the size of such a seed can be a full participant in God's plan. There is no minimum amount needed in order to be claimed by Christ. Your faith, no matter how weak and no matter how small is enough. So, don't be afraid to use your mustard seed faith, discover what you can do with the faith that you have, and practice using the faith that you have been given. If you do, you just might find that your tiny mustard seed faith will grow into something truly amazing! Faith is to live by entrusting oneself to God's promises. Faith is always God's gift and never our own accomplishment. Faith is ever and only a response empowered by an amazing grace originating from outside of our own efforts that enables us to entrust ourselves willingly to One we have found trustworthy. It is especially, through word and sacrament that God bestows this faith. The words of Jesus are not meant to emphasize an extraordinary physical phenomenon. Rather the contrast between the mountain and the grain of mustard seed stresses the infinite possibilities which are open to authentic faith. It is evident here that Jesus intends our faith to be something other than a simple intellectual adherence to revealed truth. Jesus speaks of faith as being a humble and total trust in the all-powerful goodness of God. If I have but a grain of authentic faith, I can risk making that faith the basis of my life in all circumstances, confident that God will grant the true and best solutions to all my difficulties. That would be my way of removing mountains.



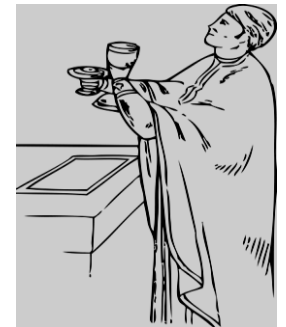
something truly amazing! Faith is to live by entrusting oneself to God's promises. Faith is always God's gift and never our own accomplishment. Faith is ever and only a response empowered by an amazing grace originating from outside of our own efforts that enables us to entrust ourselves willingly to One we have found trustworthy. It is especially, through word and sacrament that God bestows this faith. The words of Jesus are not meant to emphasize an extraordinary physical phenomenon. Rather the contrast between the mountain and the grain of mustard seed stresses the infinite possibilities which are open to authentic faith. It is evident here that Jesus intends our faith to be something other than a simple intellectual adherence to revealed truth. Jesus speaks of faith as being a humble and total trust in the all-powerful goodness of God. If I have but a grain of authentic faith, I can risk making that faith the basis of my life in all circumstances, confident that God will grant the true and best solutions to all my difficulties. That would be my way of removing mountains.

## FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

### The importance of Sunday and Participating at the Divine Liturgy

*The following article was written by a Catholic Apologist, Matt Nelson and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of Sunday and worshipping at the Divine Liturgy. Space does not permit the entire article so you may locate it on [Catholic.com/magazine](http://Catholic.com/magazine).*

Every Sunday "the whole Christ" is reunited in and through the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, our choice to participate is salvific: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Theologian Colin Donovan reminds us that "in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) it is Christ himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to his. In no other way is it possible to adequately give thanks (eucharistia) to God . . . than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ himself." Christ does with us in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) what we cannot do alone: make a perfect offering to the Father. The key to understanding why Catholics must attend Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) lies above all in the essence of the Mass (Divine Liturgy) itself. Our duty to be willing participants **IS NOT rooted in how it makes us feel but in what it is**. As the sacred meeting place of God and man, the Mass (Divine Liturgy) reorients our lives towards God, reunites us with him in love, and thereby communicates the grace of salvation to our souls. In the long run, there can be nothing more productive than that.



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 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.**
- August 23 ..... GCU Northwest Pgh Lodge 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly meeting @ 2:00 p.m. in MR.
- August 28 ..... Vigil of Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) – (NS) 6:00 p.m.
- August 29 ..... Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist — (MR) 9:00 a.m.
- September 1 ..... Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.

## Saint of the Week — August 10

### The Holy Archdeacon-Martyr Lawrence of Rome

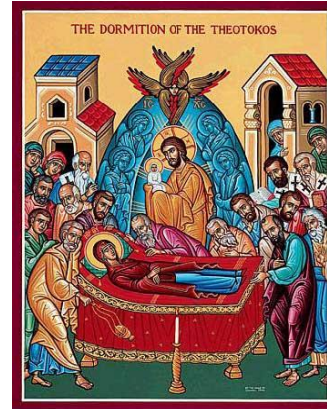
Little is known about St. Lawrence (Latin: Laurentius). His Acts were lost by the time of Augustine. Legend states that he was a native of Northern Spain, who had received instruction from St. Sixtus while he was an archdeacon in Rome. When Sixtus rose to the papacy in 257, Lawrence was ordained a deacon and was charged with the administration of ecclesiastical alms for the poor. In early August of 258, the Emperor Valerian issued an edict commanding that all bishops, priests, and deacons should be put to death immediately without trial. This command was immediately carried out throughout the city of Rome. On August 6, Pope Sixtus was arrested in the catacombs and executed with his two other deacons, Felicissimus and Agapitus. Lawrence is purported to have said as they were being led to torture, *"Where are you going, Holy Father, without your son? Where, O Bishop, without your archdeacon? Before you never approached the altar of sacrifice without your servant, and now you are going without me?"* St. Sixtus was said to have prophesied that he would follow them soon after. The imperial authorities soon came to St. Lawrence to demand access to the church treasury. In the course of three days after the death of the Pope and his fellow archdeacons, St. Lawrence worked quickly to distribute as much of the ecclesiastical monies to the poor as possible. On the third day, at the head of a small tribunal, he presented himself to the prefect, and when ordered to give up the treasures of the Church, he led them to a room. There he presented the poor, crippled, and maimed, proclaiming, *"Behold the jewels of the Church! The Church is truly rich, far richer, than your emperor."* On August 10, St. Lawrence was perfected in holy martyrdom, grilled on a gridiron for his faith. Legend says that he was so strong-willed that, instead of giving in and releasing information to the Romans at the point of death, he cried, *"I'm done on this side! Turn me over and eat!"* In iconography, he is often depicted holding his gridiron.



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# General Announcements

**OBLIGATORY HOLY DAY THIS WEEK — Saturday Morning (also: Friday evening), Aug. 14-15**, we will be celebrating the **Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Mother of God.** It is the most ancient Marian Feast of the Church.



It is customary to bless flowers and herbs on this day. This custom of the Church arose when the Holy Theotokos fell-asleep on Mount Zion and all of the apostles were miraculously transported back to Jerusalem with the exception of St. Thomas. Following the funeral procession along the Kidron Valley to the Gethsemane tomb, they returned to Mount Zion. Thomas later arrived and urged the apostles to take him to view and pray before the mortal remains. When then arrived at the tomb an aromatic fragrance of flowers and herbs filled the air near the spot when they laid her. Her most pure body was no longer present. Receiving a vision that she was transferred to heaven, the apostles rejoiced and

strengthened to proclaim the Good News of her beloved Son, Jesus. Following the Divine Liturgies flowers and herbs will be solemnly blessed as a thanksgiving offering. *Since flowers symbolize the beauty of Eternal Life, and herbs a healing remedy for the body, you may wish to take a blessed flower and place it on the grave(s) of your loved one(s) as a symbol of faith and a prayer that they may be resting in the eternal Kingdom of heaven. **Bring flowers and herbs for this special blessing!*** Check the liturgical page for the times of the Divine Liturgies.

**BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS NEXT WEEKEND —** Following

each of the Divine Liturgies **next weekend of August 15 & 16, 2020** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the actual and/or virtual Academic Year of 2020-2021 in their various schools, colleges and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing comes the third weekend of August. Receive God's blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy.



**CONTINUING THE SAVIOR PENITENTIAL FAST —** During this fourteen-day penitential period, the Church prescribes the Paraklis Service be held in honor of the Mother of God. The word "paraklis" has two different meanings: the first is "consolation," from which the Holy Spirit is called the "Paraclete," or "Consoler"; the second is "supplication" or "petition".



The Paraklis Service consists of supplication hymns to obtain consolation and courage. It should be recited in times of temptation, discouragement or sickness. It is used more particularly during the two weeks before the Dormition of the Theotokos, from **August 1 to August 14**. The theme of this Paraklis Services centers around the petition. "Most Holy Mother of God, save us." *Following each of the daily Divine Liturgies we will offer a portion of this service for all our family, relatives and friends who have left our church so that they may return for the sake of their salvation. Also, as we continue in this pandemic era, we will pray the vanquishing of the coronavirus.*