

Parish Offerings – 10th Sunday after Pentecost — August 9, 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 (\$2,844.25) YP (\$18)	\$2,862.25
Holy Days (\$296) YP (\$2)	298.00
Eastern European Collection	4.00
Votive Candles	148.75
	<hr/>
	\$3,313.00

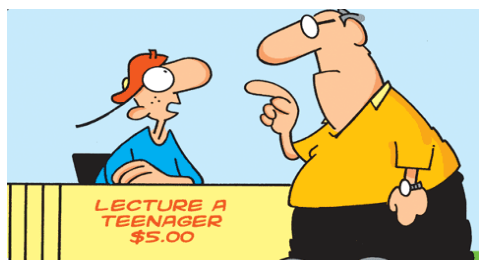
Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$648.00
Holy Days	32.00
Improvement	10.00
Votive Candles	59.05
	<hr/>
	\$749.05

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (31)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (43); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (21)



TO HAVE A LEMONADE STAND, BUT THIS PAYS BETTER."



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

WHEN YOU CAN'T CONTROL
WHAT IS HAPPENING
AROUND YOU, CHALLENGE
YOURSELF TO CONTROL
THE WAY
IN WHICH
YOU
RESPOND.



THAT IS WHERE
YOUR TRUE POWER LIES.

DESIGNS BY NANCY

235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nancde@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski

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possible to bring you this
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without an added expense to
the Church. New Sponsors
please contact Church 9 til 1.**



Northwestern Lodge offers
Insurance & Annuity Benefits greater
than most financial institutions. Info
call Tina (412) 859-9597

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

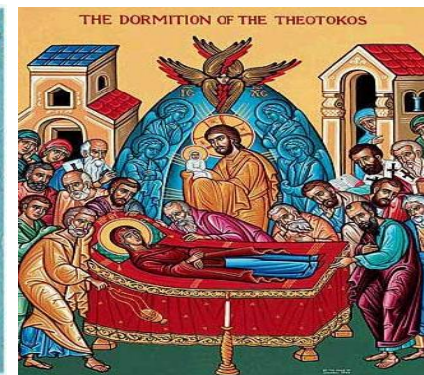
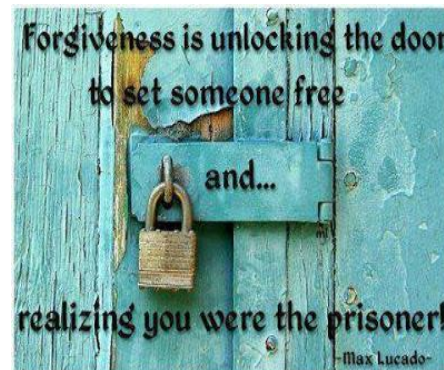
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Postfestive of the Dormition — August 16, 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).

August 16, 2020

Seasonal Greeting


Volume X, Number 33



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
 11th 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
Mon, Aug 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Kotik	Marilyn & Vince Biancucci
Tue, Aug 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Aaron Leshko (6 th ann of pass)	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
Wed, Aug 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Muska	Brother: Mike
Thrs, Aug 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Wojciechowicz Family	Br. Regis Holowitz, O.F.M.
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) <i>for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church & the vanquishing of the coronavirus</i>			
Fri, Aug 21	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Special Intention for Increase of Vocations to the Priesthood	Nypaver Family
Sat, Aug 22	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Claudia C. Verner (birthday)	Husband: George

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Final Day of the Dormition Feast

SUN., Aug 23	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Kulka	Children: Kathy & John
		(14 th ann of passing 8/26)	
	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: Aug 16 – Janet Sendro; Aug 18 – Isabella Bedard, Peter Zubritzky; Aug 19 – IRENE JUGAN, Anna Keller; Aug 20 – Nina Bella Lecci; Aug 21 – Carmella Marie Rippole.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuonas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, Olga Manfredo, Joseph Mitro, 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. Is bisexuality okay? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** No. Bisexuality involves homosexual acts, which are condemned in Scripture (Lv 18:22, 20:13; Gn 18:20; I Cor 6:9-10; CCC 2357, 2353). Bi sexuality is contrary to the monogamous and heterosexual lifestyle set forth by God. It is no more acceptably than homosexuality or any other sin against chastity. Bisexuality has become “fashionable” in recent years. This is due to the breakdown of stable family structures, insidious information on television and in the movies, a lack of good moral formation in our schools, and a general breakdown in the morals of society. Scripture speaks of how lust in man’s heart will lead to degrading practices (Rom 1:26-27). Sin fuels more sin. There is no limit to where the sinful human heart can go (Eph 2:3; Rom 1:19-25).



This Week’s Sanctuary Lamps

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



Aug 16 — Aug 22, 2020

(MR): **In memory of Claudia C. Verner (birthday 8/29)**

offered by Husband: George

(NS): **In memory of Michael Seman, Jr.**

(MR) All reserved for 2020

offered by Sister: Velma

(NS) All reserved for 2020

General Announcements

GCU 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!

FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

Mary's Assumption in the Eastern Tradition

The following article was written by a Catholic Answer writer, Deacon Daniel G. Dozer and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of understanding the Dormition Feast. Space does not permit the entire article.

.... We celebrate this holy end of Mary's life today with the Solemnity of the Assumption, in the East called the Dormition. Catholics of the Latin tradition often assume that Mary's final end has been sufficiently addressed by the dogma of the Assumption, that is, her translation, body and soul, into heaven as defined by Pius XII in 1950.... The Byzantine tradition, however, as part of the universal and fully Catholic patrimony of the Church, is not silent on this topic. It guards a rich treasury of teaching, iconography, and liturgy concerning the end of Mary's life.... These three events—her death, her resurrection, and her assumption into heaven—complete the mosaic of the holy end of Mary's life. According to Stephen Shoemaker, a contemporary theologian who specializes in the area of the Dormition traditions, some of the common threads running through the Palm narratives are as follows: **1)** An angel meets Mary on the Mount of Olives and announces to her that her time of death has come and brings to her a palm branch from the Tree of Life in paradise; **2)** Mary goes back to her home in Jerusalem and informs her friends and family of the message of the angel, and the apostles, who were engaged in their respective missions all over the earth, re-gather miraculously in Jerusalem; **3)** Peter, who is treated as the head of the apostles, delivers a homily to those who have come the night before to pray as Mary prepares for her death; **4)** When the moment arrives, the crowds are put to sleep, all except the apostles and three virgins, who see Jesus and a host of angels appear; **5)** Jesus receives the immaculate soul of Mary, appearing in the form of an infant in white swaddling clothes, and gives it to Michael the Archangel; **6)** The apostles carry Mary's body on a funeral bier to a tomb beside the Garden of Gethsemane; **7)** Jephonias, one of the Jewish leaders, attempts to upend the funeral bier but as he does so his hands are severed by an angel, then later restored by his conversion and prayers to Mary; **8)** After laying her body in the tomb, the apostles wait for Christ there for several days until he returns, resurrects Mary and takes her body, along with the apostles, to paradise; **9)** The apostles, after being shown heaven and hell, then return to earth with Mary remaining, body and soul, in heaven. One of the later narratives also mentions a situation where Thomas arrives late. By the time he reaches the city and meets with the other apostles, Mary has been buried and he requests to see her body in the sealed tomb. When the tomb is opened, however, Mary's body is not to be found, but rather the relics of her funeral robe and her belt. The finding of the relics is also part of the Dormition traditions of Constantinople and Ephesus.

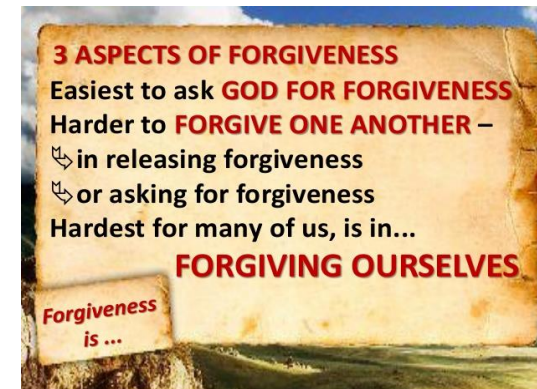


11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

An Important Lesson on Forgiveness from the Fathers of the Church

(Matthew 18: 23-35)

The beautiful mystery of seventy-seven is this: in that special number all sins of all generations were symbolized as having been forgiven. Since no generation was



omitted, no generation misses out on the full gift of divine forgiveness in the cross. So also, should we learn to forgive each other to the same extent that God has fully forgiven us. The frequency of pardon shows us there is never a time for anger, since God pardons us for all sins in their entirety by his gift rather than by our merit (Hilary of Poitiers).

In today's Gospel-parable, the unmerciful servant had lost a vast amount. Much had been loaned and entrusted to him, but he had brought no gain to his master (Origen). The master's teaching purpose was to show him with all justice precisely how much debt he was going to free him from. In this way at least he might in due time become gentler toward his fellow servant. Yet, even having learned of the weight of his debt and the greatness of the forgiveness, he continued to seize his fellow servant by the throat (Chrysostom). The forced sale of his wife and family portrays metaphorically utter separation from the joys of God (Cyril of Alexandria). God created us from nothing and made the whole visible world for us. To us alone he breathed a living soul. Yet after all this, when humanity proved ungrateful toward its benefactor, God thought us worthy of an even greater gift: forgiveness (Chrysostom). God forgives our immense debt often thousand talents on the proviso that we **ourselves release our fellow servants from the paltry hundred denarii, from the few** minor faults they have committed against us (Cyril of Alexandria). The king in the parable is the Son of God, and the kingdom belongs to the one who incomparably defines kingship itself and makes it possible (Origen). Compare the two servants: one was indebted for ten thousand talents, the other for a pittance. One was merely dealing with his fellow servant, while the other was dealing with his lord. The one received entire forgiveness, the other asked for delay (Chrysostom). The story demands two things of us: to remember our own faults and not to bear a grudge against one who stumbles (Apollinaris).

***Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us!***

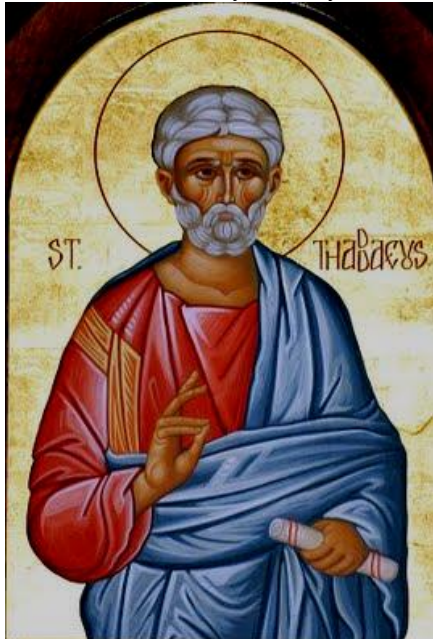
Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 23 GCU Northwest Pgh Lodge 3rd 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.
September 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week — August 21

Saint Thaddeus one of the Seventy Apostles

Saint Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy, was by descent a Hebrew, and he was born in the Syrian city of Edessa. *The holy Apostle Thaddeus of the*

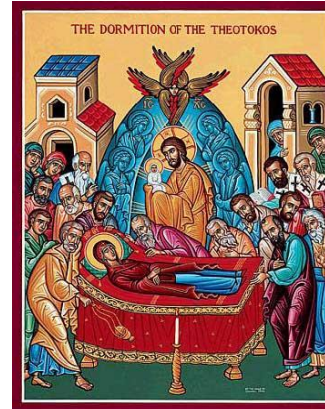


Seventy must be distinguished from St Jude, also called Thaddeus or Levi (June 19), who was one of the Twelve Apostles. When he came to Jerusalem for a feast day, he heard the preaching of John the Forerunner. After being baptized by him in the Jordan, he remained in Palestine. He saw the Savior, and became His follower. He was chosen by the Lord to be one of the Seventy Disciples, whom He sent by twos to preach in the cities and places where He intended to visit (Luke. 10: 1). After the Ascension of the Savior to Heaven, St Thaddeus preached the good news in Syria and Mesopotamia. He came preaching the Gospel to Edessa and he converted

King Abgar, the people and the pagan priests to Christ. He backed up his preaching with many miracles (about which Abgar wrote to the Assyrian emperor Nerses). He established priests there and built up the Edessa Church. Prince Abgar wanted to reward St Thaddeus with rich gifts, but he refused and went preaching to other cities, converting many pagans to the Christian Faith. He went to the city of Beirut to preach, and he founded a church there. It was in this city that he peacefully died in the year 44. (The place of his death is indicated as Beirut in the Slavonic MENAION, but according to other sources he died in Edessa. According to an ancient Armenian tradition, St Thaddeus, after various tortures, was beheaded by the sword on December 21 in the Artaz region in the year 50).

General Announcements

OBLIGATORY HOLY DAY TODAY — 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 TODAY — Following each of the Divine Liturgies **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.



THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED — Many thanks is extended to all who fully participated in the August Holy Days of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Dormition of the Theotokos by continuing the long-time traditions of brings grapes, fruits, flowers and herbs to be blessed. It may seem like a small gesture, but it is really not. At this time of our parishes history, you have handed on the torch of fidelity and love for our Byzantine Catholic traditions as did those who preceded us during our 114 years of our Churches foundings. God grant you many blessed years!

PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS — Our parishes have been opened and have been following the regular schedule of liturgical services. If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) and desire to return but are still unsure of its safety from the coronavirus, we assure you that there is plenty of room to extend physical distancing. However, if you would like the pastor to make a sacramental visitation ahead of your return, please phone the parish office and set a time when Father can visit you.