

**Parish Offerings – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — August 16, 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 (\$1,924.50) YP (\$12) .....	\$1,936.50
Holy Days (\$205.75) YP (\$7) .....	212.75
Votive Candles .....	71.00
	\$2,220.25

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$1,018.76
Holy Days .....	42.00
Votive Candles .....	46.50
	\$1,107.26

**Church Attendance Last Week**

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (43); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

Feast of the Dormition — (NS) 6:00 p.m. (28); (MR) 9:00 a.m. (21)



**Valerian F. Szal**  
 238 Helen St.,  
 McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
 Phone: (412) 331-9713  
 331-9713  
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 Supervisor, CFSP



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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'ita!  
 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.**

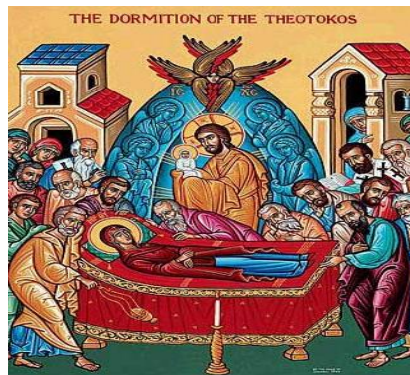
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Final Day of the Dormition Feast — August 23, 2020**



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

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

**Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter**

**The Reverend Deacon Michael E. 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 23, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 34



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Back to School

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

#### Final Day of the Dormition Feast

SUN., Aug 23	9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kulka	Children: Kathy & John (14 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/26)
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen (Seman) Lucy	Florence & Debra Charochak
Mon, Aug 24	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Wahal (birthday 8/25)	+ Elizabeth Mross
Tue, Aug 25	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia (Miklos) Sibenik (4 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)	Son: Steven
Wed, Aug 26	8:00 a.m. (MR) + John A. Conti, Jr. (memorial)	Mother: Mary Ann
Thrs, Aug 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

**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 28  8:00 a.m. (MR) Josipa Opat Son: Michael & Family

\*\*\*\*\*

**DL for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist — Simple Holy Day**

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Anna + John Spontak Grandson: Brad

### Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist, John — Simple Holy Day

Traditional Day of Strict Abstinence (no meat or dairy) — RECOMMENDED  
SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (No Meat) & no serving or eating on a platter or dish

Sat, Aug 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh Mary Ann Lutz

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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John N. Zavidny Wife: Bunny & Family

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

SUN., Aug 30	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + Amelia Firko (birthday)	Son: Fr. Firko

# 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 25 – Lori Lee Rippole; Aug 27 – Ilona Goyda; Aug 28 – Amy C. Slight; Aug 29 – William Babin, Nikolai Stashkevych.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuнас, 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.

**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.

**ST. CLAIR HOSPITAL** ( 1000 Bower Hill Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243): Irene Bednar.

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

**Q.** How do you know when God is talking to you? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** The more that we pray and are silent before God, the more we can know His will for our lives (Lam 3:25-26; 1 Kgs 19: 11-12; Prv 3:5-6; Mt 7: 7-11; CCC 2699, 2716). God also reveals His will to us through signs, both small and large. So, keep an eye open for unique occurrences, answered prayers, and an overall peace that comes about when you have made good choices (1 Jn 3:19-22). Most importantly, God speaks to us through His Word (CCC 2700). This Word comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ, Who is the Word made flesh (Jn 1:1); through the Bible (2 Tm 3:16-17; CCC 2705); and through Sacred Tradition as handed on by the Church (2 Thess 2:15).



## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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



**Aug 23 — Aug 29, 2020**

(MR): In memory of All Police Officers who lost their lives

offered by Rippole Family

(NS): In memory of Mary & Helen Kobulnicky

(MR) All reserved for 2020

offered by Fr. Firko

(NS) All reserved for 2020

# General Announcements

## GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE MARIAN STATUE CLEANING —

Wow!!! Your generosity knows no bounds!! As to this date, we have collected nearly twice the amount of the cost! Total: \$3,960.00. Our parish has opened another account in our Parish Savings and Share to place remaining donations for future cleaning and repair of the statue. In the meantime, it will accrue interest. The labor is slated to commence tomorrow, August 24. The following have contributed and are listed in alphabetical order: (1) Anonymous; (2) Anonymous; (3) Anonymous; (4) Anonymous (NS); (5) Anastasia & Timothy Bedard; (6) Elaine Cassidy (in memory of mother + Millie Sotak); (7) Mary Ann & Ilona Goyda; (8) Kurt Perschy; (9) Patricia Porter; (10) Mary Ann & Steven Puluka; (11) Kimberly Ruud (in memory of father, + Michael P. Harsh, Sr.; (12) Velma Seman (NS); (13) Joan Senchyshyn (NS); (14) Cathy & Maria Sylvestri (non-members); (15) Kathleen Puskar-Wall (non-member); (16) Anita Wolsko. Again, any addition contribution will be placed in our Parish Savings & Share Account for future touch-ups on the statue. God bless all of you for your kind donation. May the Most Holy Theotokos remember your kindness and generosity!



## CHURCH & RECTORY AIR CONDITIONING UNITS ARE NOW FUNCTIONING —

What a difference A/C makes during this hot and humid summer days. This past week, we received the invoice from Gravener Heating & A/C for the repair on the Church and second floor rectory units. CHURCH: a 220V Relay and Motor along with the labor totaled: \$1,141.00; 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR RECTORY A/C UNIT repaired water damage from unit coming through ceiling light fixtures totaled: \$807.00. Once again, your weekly contributions make it possible to have these projects restored to normal. Thank you!



## Determine Reception of Holy Communion (cont. from this edition's article)

A mortal sin is a grievous offense against God that deprives the sinner of sanctifying grace, which is the supernatural life of the soul (1 Jn 5:16-17; CCC 1855). It also makes the person an enemy of God, takes away the merits of one's good action done in a state of serious sin, and deprives one of the sanctifying grace necessary for salvation (Rom 1:18; Prv 15:9; CCC 1861).

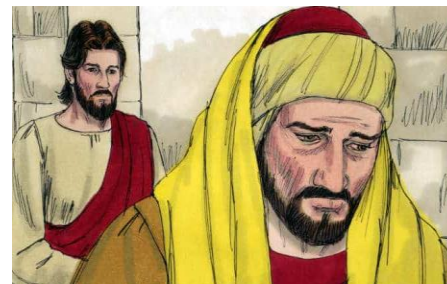
To commit a mortal (or deadly) sin, there are three conditions that must be present: (1) The thought, word, action, or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong. (2) The sinner needs to know that it is seriously wrong. (3) The sinner must give full consent of the will in choosing the sin (CCC 1857, 1874).

At our Holy Ghost Church, we have a confession guide available of the confession prayers and an examination of conscience, if you cannot locate it, ask for a copy). As you become more sensitive to God's laws (through prayer, study and frequent reception of the sacraments), you will know almost immediately when you have committed a serious offense.

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

## Jesus offers the same challenge today As He offered the Rich Man in today's Gospel (Matthew 19: 16-26)

The great truth of this story lies in the way it illumines the meaning of eternal life. Eternal life is life such as God himself lives. The word for eternal is aionios, which



does not mean lasting or ever; it means such as befits God, or such as belongs to God, or such as is characteristic of God. The great characteristic of God is that He so loved and He gave. Therefore, the essence of eternal life is not a carefully calculated keeping of the commandments and the rules and the regulations; **eternal life is based on an**

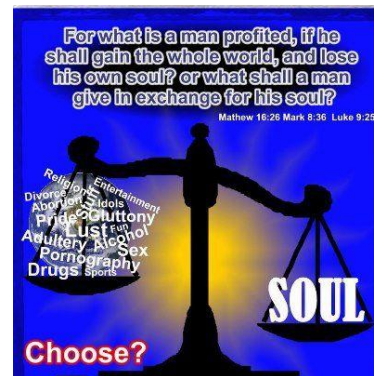
**attitude of loving and sacrificial generosity to our fellow-men.** If we would find eternal life, if we would find happiness, joy, satisfaction, peace of mind and serenity of heart, it shall not be by piling up a credit balance with God through keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations; it shall be through reproducing God's attitude of love and care to our fellow-men. To follow Christ and in grace and generosity to serve the men for whom Christ died are one and the same thing. In the end the young man turned away in great distress. He refused the challenge, because he had great possessions. His tragedy was that he loved things more than he loved people; and he loved himself more than he loved others. Any man who puts things before people and self before others, must turn his back on Jesus Christ.

## How do you Determine if you can receive Holy Communion or not?

By your examining your conscience to determine, as best as you can,

whether you are in the state of grace. If you have committed any mortal sins that have not been confessed, you ARE NOT in the state of grace (1 Cor 11:28). If you are in the state of grace, you can and should receive the Eucharist. If you are not, you should not receive it. To do so would be the sin of sacrilege (1 Cor 11:27; CCC 1385).

As you grow in the spiritual life, you will generally find it is easier to determine whether you have committed any mortal sins (1 Jn 3:19-24, 4:13). In the meantime, here is a



quick lesson on what constitutes a mortal sin. (article continues in this edition).

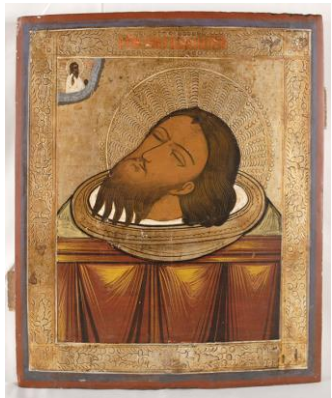
# Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.  
September 8 ..... Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

## Simple Holy Day This Week

### Beheading of St. John the Baptist — August 29

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time



when John the Baptist was preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip, danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though it be

half of his kingdom. Being persuaded by her mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist. Herod gave the order and **John was beheaded in prison and his head brought to him on a platter**. John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evil doers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Passover but its celebration on *August 29 was established because*, on that day, a church which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed. **Divine Liturgies Wednesday, Aug. 29 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 7:00 p.m. In the spirit of this feast try to avoid eating from a dish or platter, but use a humble paper plate. The founders and benefactors of our Churches ate from the kitchen pots and pans on this day in St. John's honor! Some did not cut anything that resembled a head (eg. cabbage, lettuce, even a tomato) with a knife!**

# General Announcements

**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 may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul!

**DID YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?** — We are preparing labels for the upcoming contribution envelope boxes. We wish to make sure that we have your

current address on file along with a current email address. Please notify the Church Office if there are any changes. Also, please use your contribution envelopes. Your sacrificial offerings help to continue the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and the administration of the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) at our Holy Ghost Church. Just as you are required to meet your fiduciary obligations at home, so must we here at the Church. It is a Universal Church Precept to meet this responsibility. The Church understands that in times of economic distress and shortcomings this may not be tentatively possible. If you are not able to contribute please contact the pastor. He will understand. Remember to be a sponsor at Baptism/Chrismation or to be married in the Church this Precept of the Church (this is only one of six) must be fulfilled!



**KENNYWOOD PIEROGI FEST CANCELLED** — Recently, we received word that the



*Annual September Kennywood Park Pierogi Feast* has been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus. For the past two years, our Holy (MR) Holy Ghost Church has placed FIRST among the many kinds of Pirohi by several vendors in competition. Unfortunately, many will be disappointed. We will prepare for 2021!

**PRAYERFUL SOLICITUDE FOR OUR TEACHERS & CHILDREN BEGINNING**

**SCHOOL** — Last week following the weekend Divine Liturgies, both students and teachers came forward to receive a blessing for the new 2020-2021 Academic Year. This blessing will carry through this chapter in their precious lives even when it seems to be a distant memory. Our Lord Jesus is the Source of all Wisdom, and true wisdom truly finds its source in Him. Let us remember our teachers and students in prayer that they may be able to recognize and discern the True Source of Wisdom. May they grow in holiness, knowledge and commitment to Jesus! God grant them many happy and blessed years!!!

