

Parish Offerings – 13th Sunday after Pentecost — August 30, 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 (\$1,636.75) YP (\$6)	\$1,642.75
Holy Days (\$246) YP (\$4)	250.00
Votive Candles	76.50
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	\$1,969.25

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$1,380.00
Holy Days	40.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvement (\$3)	13.00
Votive Candles	40.50
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	\$1,473.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (25)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (38); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)

Beheading of St. Jon the Baptist, Aug 28 & 29

(NS) 6:00 p.m. (6); (MR) 9:00 a.m. (22)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Virtual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown
September 6, 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 – 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**

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

Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nanode@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alterations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

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

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(412) 771-3324**

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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).

September 6, 2020 Seasonal Greeting Volume X, Number 36



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Labor Weekend — Virtual Mt. St. Macrina Pilgrimage

SUN., Sept 6 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Jennie E. Timulak Dgtr: Bernadette Gunkel & Family
(5th ann of passing 9/5)



11:00 a.m. (NS) + William Gogal (1st ann of passing) Wife: Nancy & Family

Prefestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday — no banking or postal services

Mon, Sept 7 *** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna (birthday 9/4) Bilak & Tomchak Families



Nativity of the Holy Theotokos



Solemn Holy Day — Blessing of the Shrine Statue


Tue, Sept 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Bishop John M. Bilock (26th ann of passing)
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Wed, Sept. 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Mike Muska

Thrs, Sept 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Firko, Sr. + Frank T. Firko, Jr. Family

National Patriot Day

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

Fri, Sept 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Onesi (birthday 9/10)  Family

Final Day of the Nativity of the Holy Theotokos

Sat, Sept 12 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Amelia M. Sotak (1st ann of passing 9/11) Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy

Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN., Sept 13 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Francis E. Eberle (7th ann of passing) Son: James

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (9th ann of pass 9/15) Valeriano & Kallop Families

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: Sept 6 – Irene Palahunik; Sept 7 – Dennis Safranko; Sept 8 – AMBERLY VALERIANO; Sept 11 – Donna Herron, Katherine Leasure, JOHN NEWPORT.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Iлона 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Isn't gambling a sin? How then can you Catholics justify playing bingo? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** First of all, the stereotype of bingo-playing Catholics is really overblown. The vast majority of parishes don't even have a bingo night. Second, gambling is not in and of itself wrong. Read your Bible and you will not find gambling condemned anywhere in it. The average gambler loses money, but the process is entertaining, so what gambling amounts to is paying money to be entertained, and there is nothing wrong with that. Gambling becomes sinful only when one pays too much money for the entertainment. A person in a casino spending thousands of dollars that his family needs is committing a sin, and the Church is very firm about this (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2413). It would likewise be sinful for a person to spend thousands of dollars his family needed on other forms of entertainment, too, like limited edition books, movies, collector's items, or whatever. However, if you can afford it, there is nothing wrong with spending a few dollars for an evening of entertainment, whether it is bingo, the movies, or something else.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept 6 — Sept 12, 2020

(MR): **In memory of George Krulac**

offered by Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko

(NS): **In memory of the Hubal Family**

(MR) All reserved for 2020

offered by Hubal Family

(NS) All reserved for 2020



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

PLUMBING WORK COMMENCES THIS WEEK — Matt Mertz Plumbing conceded to our request and found an opening to begin the plumbing work at the Convent and Church



Basements this Wednesday, September 9. It was originally scheduled for next week. We hope to solve the flooding issues in both edifices. Also, we informed our insurance company of the situation concerning cleanup detail. They directed us to contact Service Master to have our Church Basement sanitized cleaning it

from odors and mold development. There was also an issue with mildew in a storage area off the priest's sacristy. No doubt that last week's torrential downpour caused extensive damage that hadn't been experienced over a decade prior.

Northside

Once again, there are no particular announcements this week.

· PRAISING AND THANKING THROUGH OUR HOLY DAYS — As we marked the beginning of the new Church Year on September 1, we, once again, we have the opportunity to renew



the events of our salvation through all holy days. To praise and thank God for revealing His mercy to us with the promise of everlasting life, holy days remind us of each of these special salvific events. *Over the past few years, the attendance has been on the low side.* Show your love for God and His Church. The beauty of our Byzantine Catholic Church, more than other rites of the Catholic Church, emphasize much solemnity by commemorating several salvific events in our holy days throughout the year other than the required Sundays.

National Patriot Day this Week

On **September 11, 2001**, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the biggest



act of terrorism ever on United States soil. Nearly 3000 people died in the attacks and the economic impact was immense. The attacks have greatly increased attention to national security in the United States. This has had huge implications for United States national and international politics. This is particularly true for the relationships between the United States and Islamic countries in the Middle East. On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings in the whole world. The flag should be flown at half-staff as a mark of respect to those who died on September 11, 2001.

14th SUNDAY After Pentecost

God Invites all to the Wedding Banquet

(Matthew 22: 1-14)

In today's parable of the Wedding Banquet, the Father has prepared for His Son a wedding, and the Father sends out servants to invite people to attend this great occasion.



He sends out servants with invitations not just one time, but three times, and the responses are varied. The first group of servants is simply ignored, the invited are not willing to come. The second group of servants is mocked, and some of the invited just leave and go back to their business, and others take the servants and abuse them and even kill them. The final group is sent to a different audience—instead of a select few being

invited to the wedding, these servants are sent on the highways to invite anyone they might see. And finally, the wedding hall is filled with guests. We find ourselves, obviously, to be in the final group. The king has called everyone, but even then, to attend, there are expectations! The guests are expected to be properly attired. **This one man had not worn his wedding garment.** The Church Fathers tell us this lapse is so terrible because the Host/the King had provided the wedding garments for his guests to wear. He has no excuse for not be dressed and ready for the wedding. **The wedding garment is our baptismal robe**, and all that goes with it: The purity of our lives, having died to the old man and being clothed in the new man, being clothed in Christ. Once we say "yes" to Christ, there are expectations. If you love Me, Christ says, keep My commandments. We're expected not to just continue doing whatever we want to do, but we are expected is to take up our Cross daily and follow Christ wherever He may lead us. If we just keep doing whatever we want, and live in mortal sin, we're still the master in our lives. We'll be just like this man who arrived at the wedding but didn't have his wedding garment. It would be a horrible thing to discover that the invitation was open to all (as it is), but that we had not prepared ourselves to be welcomed into—the heavenly kingdom.

Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a special day for this purpose. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

Have a safe Labor Day



Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 7 Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday.
September 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
September 14 Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross (Solemn Holy Day)
Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes prior for the Solemn Enthronement of the Holy Cross — (MR) 8:45 a.m.; (NS) 5:45 p.m.
September 20 Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year
October 1 Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

Solemn Holy Day This Week — Sept 8 Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos



The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anne. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations

and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anne. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

General Announcements

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES — Our *Eastern Christian Formation* (E.C.F.) Classes will be commencing enrollment in the next two weeks. This program ranges from Pre-School through Senior High. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration follows all Divine Liturgies beginning next week. Due to the pandemic, adjustments will also be available. All classes begin on **Catechetical Sunday, September 20, 2020** following the 9:00 a.m. (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Call Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 897-4650.



PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS — Just a reminder that



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, the pastor is more than willing 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 NOT OPTIONAL BUT ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul!

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR 86TH PILGRIMAGE - MOUNT ST. MACRINA — It is our prayer that you can join us virtually for the *86th Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on September 5 and 6*. You can do this by going to our YouTube channel at Basilians - Uniontown PA to view some services and programs that we have recorded for you. This channel will not be available until September 5. The direct link will be put on Facebook and at www.sistersofstbasil.org. Due to the current COVID-19 conditions and in an effort to responsibly care for the safety of everyone, please note that we will not be permitting groups of any size to gather on the grounds of Mount St. Macrina over the Labor Day weekend. This includes the Religious Gift Shop and the Shrine which will be closed. No buildings and/or restrooms will be open for visitors since we do not have the means to assure proper and complete sanitizing. Although we are disappointed that we cannot provide a welcoming hospitality, we are also mindful of our responsibility to foster the health and wellbeing of all.



**Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Pray to God for us!**