

Parish Offerings – 14th Sunday after Pentecost — September 6, 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 (\$2,974) YP (\$2) | \$2,976.00 |
| Holy Days | 100.00 |
| Votive Candles | 126.50 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$3,202.50 |

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Regular Offering | \$332.00 |
| Holy Days | 25.00 |
| Improvement | 60.00 |
| Votive Candles | 48.50 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$465.50 |

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (19)

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

Labor Day Monday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10)

Nativity of the Theotokos — Tues. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (13); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (9)



I didn't fall. The floor just needed a hug.

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP



DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
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Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
Northwestern Lodge offers
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than most financial institutions. Info
call Tina (412) 859-9597

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the Church. New Sponsors
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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday before the Precious Cross
September 13, 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

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 13, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 37



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) or an Equivalent Penance — Solemn Holy Day

Mon, Sept 14 * 8:50 a.m. (MR) + Rose Debranski (15th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy
* 5:50 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
* Commences 10 minutes earlier for Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross

Tue. Sept 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Pauline Bodnarchuk (birthday). Son: Paul & Leslie
Wed, Sept. 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Long Anonymous
Thrs, Sept 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Velma Seman Anonymous



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, Sept 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Saturday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Sat, Sept 19 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Nicole Elena Ringes Baba
(22nd ann of passing 9/17)

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Robert Kundrat (16th ann of passing 9/18) Mom: Theresa

Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN., Sept 20 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Dorothy Billy (birthday 9/19) Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Arendas (birthday) Leslie & Paul Bodnarchuk

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 13 – Adam Leasure; Sept 14 – Derrick Burns; Sept 15 – Norma Kacsur, Mary Ann Puluka, SHIRLEY KALNAS; Sept 16 – Mark Cifrulak, Robert Cifrulak, MARY FRANCES SPONTAK; Sept 17 – Christina Michalisk, Audrey Wenger.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I believe the Bible when it says he who divorces and marries another commits adultery, as we see in Mark 10:1-12 and Luke 16:18. But isn't Jesus leaving a loophole when he says in Matthew 19:9 "except for unchastity"? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: What may appear as a loophole is a consequence of misinterpretation or mistranslation. The King James Version and others translate the passage into English words that appear to say fornication, unchastity, or adultery are exceptions that allow a divorce. The constant teaching of the Church has been that a valid sacramental marriage cannot be broken, even if one party sins. As Matthew 19:6 says, "Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man put asunder." Biblical scholars, such as J. Bonsirven, have pointed out that the Greek word that is pivotal here is "porneia," which means unlawful sexual intercourse. The Gospel does not use the Greek word "moicheia," which is the ordinary Greek word for adultery. The intent appears to be to distinguish a true marriage from concubinage. What is being said is that if a man and a woman are in fact married, the bond is inseparable. But if they are not married, just "living together," then there is no lawful marriage and there can be a separation or annulment.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept 13 — Sept 19, 2020

(MR): In memory of Robert Kundrat

offered by Mom: Theresa

(NS): In memory of Leonard R. Kallop, Sr.

(MR) Now available for 2021

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) Now available for 2021



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

CONVENT SEWER LINE PROJECT CONTINUES — As of Friday morning, Matt



Mertz Plumbing had dug through cement flooring reaching the sewer lines. Thus far, their finding consisted of several cracked terracotta pipe, deteriorated cement binding the pipe keeping the waterflow inside, and the removal of several roots pressuring the pipe to crack in its search for water. Throughout the day their plan is to hydro-pressure the system to locate the waterflow direction and how it connects to the church basement. *Although the photo is difficult to*

visualize one cracked pipe, it is below the white drain pipe and another break to the right.

MOTHER MARY OUTDOOR STATUE BLESSED THIS PAST WEEK — On the Feast of the Holy Nativity of the Mother of God, our pastor blessed the newly refurbished statue of the Theotokos following the morning Divine Liturgy as the people responded. We chanted the “Hail Mary” in the hymn Bohorodice D’ivo both in Church Slavonic and English. Once again, thank you to all who made this project possible! May God reward your sacrifice!

Northside

Once again, there are no particular announcements this week.

Holy Days Important to be Celebrated

In the liturgical calendar of the Church, Holy Days play an important part and should be celebrated by the faithful. Each event reminds us of the importance of the happenings which took place. It transcends space and time through the liturgical expression, and manifests God’s goodness to us as they gradually unwrap His salvific plan for us. Our Byzantine Catholic Church ranks Holy Days in three classifications: **(1) Obligation; (2) Solemn; & (3) Simple.** The first precept of the Church does oblige us to come together and celebrate the salvific event. Solemn and Simple encourage us to do the same. *However, Solemn and Simple Holy Days are not a free ticket to avoid gathering and glorifying them.* We should attend them unless we are seriously impeded not by obligation but by love and gratitude. Please make every effort in this new liturgical year to attend all or at least several Solemn and Simple Holydays and enrich your souls with God’s grace that awaits you. Our dual purpose in attending is not to be entertained but to (1) worship and praise God for all that He has done and continues to do for us; and (2) allow Him to act by feeding us with His Word and Eucharist. If we have not done so already, let us begin this week with the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross. *The Solemn Enthronement of Life-Creating Cross begins 10 minutes earlier for the Solemn Enthronement.*



SUNDAY BEFORE THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION OF PRECIOUS CROSS

**Gospel meditation: John 3:13-17 teaches that Jesus:
Not a Man sent from God, but God come as Man**

The one aspect about Jesus that impressed the crowds (Mt. 7:28-29) and irritated the Jewish leaders (Mt. 9:13) was that He taught and acted with authority. The basic issue for a



Pharisee like Nicodemus was the authority of Jesus. Nicodemus was willing to grant, by virtue of the signs performed by our Lord that Jesus was a man sent from God, but this was not nearly enough. Jesus was God sent as a man. Our Lord’s heavenly origin set him apart from every other Israelite, even the great men such as Abraham, Moses and the prophets: “And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of man!” (Jn 3:13). This is why Jesus was qualified to speak to

Nicodemus of ‘heavenly things’ (v. 12)—He is the only one come down from heaven. He is the Son of Man. In my opinion, our Lord employed the term ‘Son of Man’ with reference to Himself with the specific intent of identifying Himself with the Messiah, referred to in Daniel 7:13 as the ‘Son of Man. Neither Nicodemus nor anyone else can give sufficient heed to the words of our Lord Jesus, until they have come to grips with His person. He is God come as man. Once that is settled, men must heed His teaching.

Byzantine Catholics Transmit Ancient Christian Tradition

All Catholics originally made the Sign of the Cross like today’s Byzantines

As we begin to celebrate the *Feast of the Elevation of the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord*, it is a good time to re-examine the way in which we bless ourselves. As is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we hold the thumb and first two fingers together signifying our belief in the Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The remaining two fingers are indicative of our belief of who Jesus is: God and man. These two figures are pressed into the palm reminding us that God came to earth and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Thus, when we make the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we begin by touching the forehead with the thumb and two fingers together while saying either “In the Name of the Father or Glory to the Father.” Our action continues to move down below the heart (near the naval) signifying that the Son descended to earth to become man, to die and then resurrect from the dead. The movement then is directed to the right shoulder while saying “and to the Son” since He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of the Father. The gesture then goes across to the left shoulder while saying “and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.” Historians seem to agree that this is the way Christians began signing themselves around the 8th and 9th centuries. The entirely true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the One Who was nailed to the Precious Cross. This action is indicated in the catechesis of **Pope Innocent III (1198-1216)** when delivering the following:



“The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the right to the left, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left). Others, however, make the sign of the cross from the left to the right, because from misery (left) we must cross over to glory (right), just as Christ crossed over from death to life, and from Hades to Paradise. [Some priests] do it this way so that they and the people will be signing themselves in the same way. You can easily verify this — picture the priest facing the people for the blessing — when we make the sign of the cross over the people, it is from left to right.”

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. |

The Holy Martyrs Sophia & Her Children: Faith, Hope and Charity September 17

They all lived and suffered in Rome during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. **Sophia** was wise, as her name implies. She was left a widow, and had



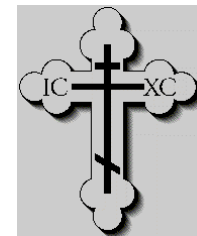
established herself and her daughters well in the Christian Faith. When the persecuting hand of Hadrian extended even over the virtuous home of Sophia, **Faith** was only twelve years old; **Hope**, ten years old; and **Charity**, nine years old. Brought before the emperor, these four held each other's hands "like a woven wreath," humbly but steadfastly confessed their faith in Christ the Lord and refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan idol Artemis. Before their suffering, the mother encouraged her daughters to endure to the end: "Your heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is eternal health, inexpressible beauty and

eternal life. When your bodies are slain by torture, He will clothe you in incorruption and the wounds on your bodies will shine in the heavens as stars." One by one the torturers inflicted cruel torments, first on Faith, then on Hope, and then on Charity. They beat them, slashed them, cast them into fire and boiling pitch, and finally beheaded them with the sword one after another. Sophia took the dead bodies of her daughters outside the town and honorably buried them. She remained at their grave for three days and three nights, praying to God. Then she gave her spirit to God, flying off to Paradise, where the blessed souls of her glorious daughters awaited her.

General Announcements

A Short Explanation of the Three-Bar Cross

The three-bar Cross is used by those worshipping in Byzantine-Slavic Churches, namely Byzantine Catholics. As Ruthenian (Rusyn) Byzantine Catholics, we count the horizontal bars and not the vertical beam. There are 2 perspectives of its meaning: (1) the top bar contains the name that Pilate chose to be placed over Jesus' head: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"; the bottom bar, the foot-stool, is seen slanted indicating the direction of the Repentant Good Thief who went upwards to Paradise; and the downward direction that the Unrepentant Thief who went to hell. (2) Another common explanation is seen from the perspective of two original apostles who gave their lives for Jesus and were also crucified. The top bar represents the cross of St. Peter, who requested to be crucified upside down, not deeming himself worthy to die in the same manner as His Lord; and the bottom bar is in the form of an "X" referred to as the St. Andrew's Cross, who was put to death in this manner. We should wear and hang the Three Bar Cross as the trophy of our salvation and as a witness to others that God loves them and seeks their salvation.



VENERATING THE PRECIOUS CROSS PROPERLY — A special veneration of the Precious Cross takes place twice a year as it rests on the tetrapod table of the Church. Since the Most

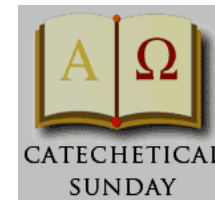


Holy Trinity is responsible for our salvation **we bow profoundly** with our right hand to the floor in honor of God the Father, Who so loved the world that He sent us His Only-Begotten Son; then a **second profound bow** in the same manner in honor of God the Son, Who redeemed us upon the Life-Creating Wood also by venerating it with a kiss; and then a **third profound bow** in honor of God the

Holy Spirit, Who sanctifies us by the Precious Blood of Christ flowing from the Holy Cross. Let us always respectfully venerate this great symbol of God's love and mercy towards us!

COMMENCEMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & COMMISSIONING CATECHETICS NEXT WEEK

Next weekend commences our 2020-2021 Catechetical Educational Year following the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. All Catechist will be commissioned in a short ceremonial program and receive a blessing to go "forth in peace." Our Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.) Program is vital to the spiritual formation of our youth. Parents, please see that your children are enrolled in this program. Religious Education is important if any young teen-ager (14 and over) is asked to be a sponsor for Baptism and/or Chrismation (Confirmation). If you have any questions, please contact Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 344-6523.



RESERVATIONS FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS



reservation dates are being taken on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both of these areas only two weekends of each will be accepted. When the demand subsides, you will be able to reserve additional weekend dates. Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend (per candle/DL) in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and place it in the collection basket. You may reserve unlimited weekday DL's! Please take care of this matter quickly to

acquire your special dates.