

Parish Offerings – 16th Sunday after Pentecost — September 20, 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 (\$1,505) YP (\$13)	\$1,518.00
Holy Days (\$292) YP (\$2)	294.00
Votive Candles	89.45
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	\$1,901.45

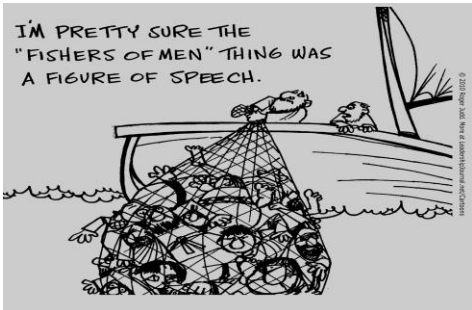
Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$504.00
Holy Days	37.00
Utilities (\$15) Improvement (\$15) Initial (\$10)	40.00
Votive Candles	50.90
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	\$631.90

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (24)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (46); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)



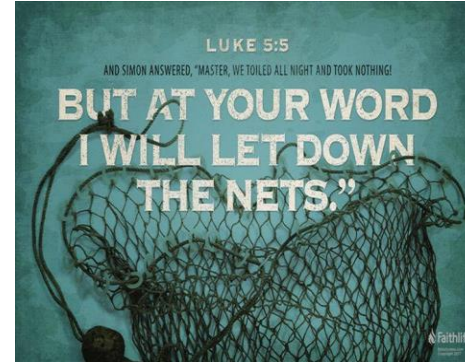
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 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!

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

OH, NO....NOT AGAIN!

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nancde@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

**This space available
for ads for wishing
someone birthday or
anniversary greetings,
get-well wishes, etc.
Call the office
(412) 771-3324**

**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.**

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 27, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 39



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
The 17th Sunday after Pentecost			
SUN., Sept 27	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Ethel Galida	Janet & Dan Laurion (1 st ann of passing 9/22)
	3:00 p.m. (MR)	Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist of Augustine Michael Wenger	
Our Venerable Father Chariton the Confessor			
Mon, Sept 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Julie Ann Bersavage	Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz
Tue, Sept 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Gramata	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George (66 th ann of passing)
Wed, Sept. 30	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula	(3 rd ann of passing 9/29) Zula Family

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Patroness of the Metropolitan Providence — Solemn Holy Day

THRS, OCT 1	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	+ Martha Jupinko	Niece: Marianne Farabaugh

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

First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Fri, Oct 2	 8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margaret Zula	Zula Family
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***** 6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary**

First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sat, Oct 3	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Michele J. (Terrek) Chiavetta (birthday 10/5)	Mom: Mildred & Family
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The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Oct 4	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Jennie + George Timulak (Wed. Ann 10/2.) Bernadette	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ John Spontak (17 th ann of passing 10/2)	Son: Robert & Joyce

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 29** – Kayla Marks; **Oct 1** – Nanine Cifrulak, Frank Grzywinski, Stephen Krempasky, KIMBERLY VALERIANO; **Oct 2** – BETTY LORINC; **Oct 3** – Michele Billy, Helenea Connor, James Eberle, George Verner.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, Helen Best, Richard Billy, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, Olga Manfredo, Joseph Mitro, Irene Muha, 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. If Protestant communion is invalid, what relationship to Christ is engendered by participating in that communion? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Protestant communion is a subjective experience. The bread and wine only symbolize the body and blood of Christ. The communion will affect the person to the degree that he is devoted to the Person of Jesus. If the communicant is devoted to Jesus, the experience becomes an act of devotion and can even be an act of the person's love.... For those who receive the Eucharist in the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, the experience is more than merely subjective. The Eucharistic elements (over and above their symbolic value) have an objective reality apart from the recipient's religiosity. These recipients have the inexpressible experience of the intimate visitation of Jesus within their very bodies. Nothing on the face of the earth can equal this.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept 20 — Sept 26, 2020

(MR): **In memory of Mildred & Michael Tomchak**

offered by Grandson: Mike Tomchak

(NS): **In memory of Thomas Zon** (2nd ann of passing 10/5)

(MR) Now available for 2021 offered by Sister: Theresa Fitzurka (NS) Now available for 2021

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

FROM LINKEDIN SOCIAL MEDIA — Meet **Nicholas Nazak**, a Biomedical Engineering major at Case Western Reserve University. Through the Remote Entrepreneurship Project (REP) Program, he interned with Constellation Medical LLC, researching #COVID19 detection kits and PCR machines. *“One of the biggest takeaways from the experience [was] the ability to efficiently and effectively do research, even on topics that I have had little to no exposure to prior... there is so much access to information not only thanks to the Internet but also [through my] personal connections.”* Nick is a life-long altar server at Holy Ghost Church and continues in this ministry when he is at home.



Northside

PARISH ADVISORY/FINANCIAL COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK — A PAC/FAC Meeting will be conducted following today's Divine Liturgy in the Church. All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance. Please mark your calendar.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: A VIRTUAL COME & SEE WEEKEND — Young men 18-25 are invited to a FREE virtual retreat, Friday through Saturday, **November 6-7, 2020** at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary. *The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest.* No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense involved in participating in this retreat. *E-mail your reply to: vocations@archeparchy.org.*



ANNUAL MOLEBEN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CAUSES — The yearly prayer service for the advancement of the Causes of Advancement and Canonization of our four holy Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Bishops will take place at the **Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks, PA** on **Sunday, November 1, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m.** For the past 34 years faithful through the Pittsburgh Archeparchy have gathered in various archieparchial parishes, monasteries and the seminary to pray for the Canonization of *Bishop-Martyr Theodore G. Romzha, Uzhorod (+1947); Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gojdich, O.S.B.M., Presov (+1960); Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko, Presov (+1976); and for the advancement of Bishop Alexander Chira, Uzhorod (+1985).* A Marian Moleben is offered seeking the aid of the Holy Mother of God in helping us achieve this end. Please mark your calendar and attend this important prayer for their advancement.



17th Sunday after Pentecost

A Preposterous Request — LK 5:1-11

It all started with the Lord's preposterous request. He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." What's so out of line about that? Three things! **First**, anybody knows that the best net fishing is done at night when the fish can't see the net in the dark—not in broad daylight. **Second**, the fishermen had just come in from fishing all night, having caught nothing. Obviously the fish were somewhere else. **Third**, now their nets were all cleaned from their night's work. It was a messy job to clean those nets of seaweed and scum. Besides, these fishermen were tired and discouraged. Who wants to start out on



the day shift right after finishing a long night shift? What Jesus asked was beyond all reason and all fishing experience. How would Peter respond? Here's how he did respond. "Master," he began. So far, so good. This seems to imply complete obedience. But then Peter protested, "We have worked all night long but have caught nothing." Peter was sitting on the fence. On the one hand, he wanted to obey Jesus. On the other hand, he knew that it was utter foolishness. Something about Jesus struck Peter as different from any other person he had ever met. He heard promises more beautiful than the bewitching charm of blue Galilee, sparkling in the morning sun. All of a sudden something snapped in Peter's heart. He jumped off the fence on the side of obedience, saying to Jesus, ***"Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."*** At that precise point, Peter surrendered the keys of his life to Jesus—all the keys, including the master key. It was an electric encounter on the shore between the Carpenter and the fisherman. The base essence of Peter's reply was, "You say . . . I will." That was an obedient surrender of the keys based on an implicit trust in Jesus. James, John and others followed Peter in heading out for the deep. After the Lord's preposterous request followed his fantastic gift. These fishermen netted a whopping catch. They had never seen a catch like that. Their net almost broke; their boats almost sank, and they hardly had enough men to haul in the fish. They were astounded that it happened in broad daylight. God was saying in language that fishermen understand what amazing things can happen when the keys of a lift are surrendered to Jesus. It illustrated the truth that God never ask of us anything, no matter how costly, but what he gives us back a hundred times more. The Twenty-third Psalm puts it in these words, "My cup runneth over." We ask God for a grain of sand and he gives us a whole beach. ***God always gives far more than either we desire or deserve, according to our trust in him.***

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- September 27 (NS) PAC/PFC Meeting in Church following the D.L.
- October 1 Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
- October 2 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 9 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 16 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 23 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 30 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.

Saint of the Day This Week

Venerable Chariton, Confessor & Abbot of Palestine — September 28

Saint Chariton the Confessor was born at Iconium in the province of Lycaonia, and suffered there during a persecution against Christians in the reign of Emperor Aurelian



(270-275). The example of the holy Protomartyr Thecla (September 24), who was also a native of his city, encouraged him to confess Christ, since he had a great devotion to her. Saint Chariton bravely denounced the pagan gods and staunchly confessed faith in the one True God, Christ the Savior. The holy Confessor underwent fierce tortures but, by God's Providence, he survived. The persecution ended after Aurelian's death in 275. Saint

Chariton was among the many Christians who were released from prison, and he resolved to dedicate his entire life to the service of the Lord. Although he escaped death, he grieved because he had not received the crown of martyrdom. After arriving at Jerusalem on a pilgrimage to the holy places, he fell into the hands of thieves. They tied him up and threw him in a cave, intending to kill him later. After they left to find people to rob, the saint prayed fervently to God expecting to be put to death. **He did not ask God to deliver him, but instead he entreated Him to do with him as He wished.** At this time a snake crawled into the cave and began to drink wine from a vessel setting there. Later it vomited forth its deadly venom, poisoning the wine. When they returned to the cave, the evil men drank the poisoned wine and they all perished. Thus, their wicked lives came to a fitting end. Saint Chariton gave thanks to God, and then he gave away the gold which the malefactors had stolen, distributing it to the poor, to churches, and to monasteries. He began his ascetic struggles in the place of his miraculous rescue, and there he built a church. In time a monastery was established: the renowned Pharan Lavra (Monastery) in Palestine. Saint Chariton's fame drew many disciples to him. He governed them with paternal affection, and he elevated them to the highest degrees of virtue. **Saint Chariton withdrew farther into the desert in order to avoid the praise of men,** but he never rejected anyone who sought his spiritual guidance. He fell asleep in the Lord peacefully and at an advanced age on September 28, 350.

SOLEMN HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

Thursday, **Oct. 1**, we celebrate the feast day of the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae (Vlaherna) in the tenth century. At the end of St. Andrew also known as a

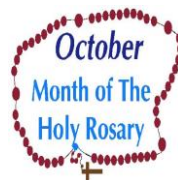


“fool for Christ,” along with his disciple St. Epiphanius, and a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae, nearby the city gates. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of her relics were kept. The relics were her robe, veil, and part of her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the fifth century. The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt down and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. During the time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering. The Protection is commemorated most fervently in Slavic churches, probably because St. Andrew was a Slav. The first celebration of the Theotokos's Protection in the Eastern Slavic Churches dates back from the 12th century and today is celebrated throughout the Byzantine Catholic Church. The feast day commemorating the miracle is celebrated with an All-Night Vigil, with many of the same elements as occur on Great Feasts of the Theotokos. However, this feast has no post-festive. **This feast is of particular importance to the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh because 46 years ago October 6, 1974, Metropolitan Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko along with the bishops of Passaic and Parma consecrated the entire metropolitan province to her heavenly protection at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.**

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General Announcements

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY — At the request of several parishioners to honor Our Blessed Mother in this special month of October, the Rosary according to our Byzantine-Ruthenian (Rusyn) tradition will be prayed **each Friday throughout the month @ 6:30 p.m.** at our Parish in McKees Rocks. This sacred devotion has been a part of our Church since it's founding over 100 years ago which our Founders and Benefactors brought with them from Subcarpathian Homeland. Come and join us as we pray for our Country & for the vanquishing of the coronavirus.



RESERVATIONS CONTINUE FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS — Divine Liturgy and



Sanctuary Lamp reservation dates are still 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. They are going fast!