

**Parish Offerings – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — October 4, 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 (\$3,681) YP (\$4) .....                              | \$3,681.00 |
| Holy Days (\$239) YP (2) .....   | 241.00     |
| Special Donation ( In mem. Of Lillian Butchko by Peggy McCusker) ..... | 250.00     |
| Votive Candles (\$107) Collection for the Poor (\$90) .....            | 197.00     |
|  | \$4,369.00 |

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Regular Offering .....                            | \$1,024.00 |
| Holy Days .....                                   | 5.00       |
| Votive Candles (\$35.80) Improvement (\$33) ..... | 68.80      |
|   | \$1,097.80 |

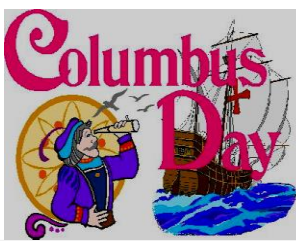
**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (21)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (53); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)



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



**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
 235 McCartney Drive,  
 Moon Township 15108  
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**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

**Love Thy Neighbor!  
 No Exceptions!!**

**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 19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Respect Life Month — October 11, 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<br>Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm<br>Sunday (MR) 9:00 am<br>Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m. | Holy Day Divine Liturgies<br>w/Great Vespers (Oblig)<br>(MR): 7:00 pm<br>Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm | Daily Divine Liturgy<br>M-F (MR) 8:00 am<br>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!

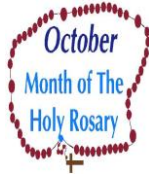
# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

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).

October 11, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 41



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### The 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council

SUN., Oct 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marian + Michael Begala Dgtr: Leslie & Paul Bodnarchuk  
(Wedding Ann 10/13)



Annual Columbus Day Federal Holiday — No Banking or Postal Services

Mon, Oct 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased of the Muska Family Gladys Muska & Family  
Tue, Oct 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Basil P. Gramata M/M Michael Dolan  
Wed, Oct 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention Kathleen Murphy  
Thrs, OCT 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Doris + Wasil Koblowski Eleanor Gramata & Son: George

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

Fri, Oct 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.  
\*\*\* 6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Sat, Oct 17 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Frances + Walter Grzywinski Son: Frank, Karen & Matthew

### The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Oct 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Eleanor Kapko Elizabeth Prostudny  
(3<sup>rd</sup> ann. of passing 10/22)  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes Knoll Son: William  
(3<sup>rd</sup> ann. of passing 10/15)

# 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: Oct 11 – Frank Revtai; Oct 12 – Jamie Skreptach; Oct 15 – LAURA KALLOP; Oct 16 – Nancy Debranski Ferrell.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, 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. Is it very wise to attend a nondenominational bible study? Three nondenominational people came up to me and tried to convert me to their religion. They pretty much just attacked the Catholic Church.... I tried my best to support where they were wrong and why the church is the way it is, but had a hard time defending some things. All three of the evangelists were converted from Catholicism to this nondenominational Christianity.... They invited me to a bible study. Do you think it's very smart for me to attend? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: It is quite clear that the intention of the "Bible study" is to convert Catholics away from the Church. So, I would not recommend attending. In general, ecumenical Bible studies can be difficult. As Catholics we believe that tradition is indispensable for interpreting the Bible, whereas most Protestants would reject tradition as a lens for Biblical interpretation. So, we have an irreconcilable difference with Protestants that goes right to the core of how to understand the Bible.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Oct. 11 — Oct. 17, 2020

(MR): In memory of Anna Sejka (birthday 10/6)

offered by Children

(NS): In memory of John Spontak (17<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 10/2)

(MR) Now available for 2021 offered by Son: Robert & Joyce (NS) Now available for 2021

# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of parishioner **Mark Andrew Cifrulak, 64**, of Jefferson Hills, PA, at the Jefferson Hills Hospital on Thursday, October 8, 2020. Jefferson Hills Funeral Home handled the arrangements. He was the beloved husband of parishioner, Nancy (Bjalobok). He was also the father of Lisa (Matthew) Edwards and parishioner Stacey (Justin) Paronish. He was the son of parishioner, Margaret, and brothers of Burt (Nannie) and Cantor: Robert (Michelle). He was a close nephew to Helen (Lester) Best. A Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered at St. John Cathedral, Munhall on Saturday, October 10 due to the short distance from his home. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Cifrulak, Best and Bjalobak Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Mark, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



**THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS** — For the past two weeks, an anonymous donor(s) has been sending flowers to be placed at the feet of our Blessed Mother located on the iconostasis. We are grateful to whoever you are for this noble expression of love for the Holy Virgin whom we especially extol this month of October. May she be comforted seeing the expression of your heart.

**UPCOMING PARISH ADVISORY/FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING** — A PAC/FAC Meeting will be conducted on **Monday, October 19, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.** All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance. Wear your masks. Please mark your calendar.

## Northside

**EXTRA ASSISTANCE FOR NS BAKELESS BAKE SALE** — Once again this year, our parish will be conducting a Bakeless Bake Sale. Since it is more expensive, laborious and really no area to set it up, this project seems to be the most beneficial way to reach the full amount of the GCU matching Expansion matching funds. We would be grateful if our McKees Rocks parish will join with us as they graciously did last year. Soon, special envelopes will be attached to the S.O.T. Church Bulletin for both parishes. We are praying that you will help us. Final day is Sunday, Nov. 22.



**COLUMBUS DAY IS A U.S. HOLIDAY** — It commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492, and Columbus Day 2019 observed occurs tomorrow **Monday, October 12**. It was unofficially celebrated in a number of cities and states as early as the 18th century, but did not become a federal holiday until 1937. For many, the holiday is a way of both honoring Columbus' achievements and celebrating Italian-American heritage. But throughout its history, Columbus Day and the man who inspired it have generated controversy, and many alternatives to the holiday have proposed since the 1970s. Christopher Columbus was an Italian-born explorer who set sail in August 1492, bound for Asia with backing from the Spanish monarchs King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Columbus intended to chart a western sea route to China, India and the fabled gold and spice islands of Asia. Instead, on October 12, he landed in the Bahamas, becoming the first European to explore the Americas since the Vikings established colonies in Greenland and Newfoundland during the 10th century.



# The True Veneration of Icons

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council of Nicea

**TODAY'S GOSPEL John 7: 1-13 — Source: Wikipedia**

The Seventh Ecumenical Council took place in [Nicea](#) in 787 AD, and is also known as the Second Council of Nicaea. The last of the seven Ecumenical Councils dealt with the icons. **The Controversy:** Disputes concerning the Person of Christ did not end with the [Sixth Council](#) in 681



AD, but continued through the eighth and ninth centuries. This time, the controversy focused on icons—pictures of Christ, the Theotokos, the saints, and holy events—and lasted for 120 years, starting in 726 AD. Icons were kept and venerated in both churches and private homes. The two groups in the controversy were: **Iconoclasts:** also called "icon-smashers," they were suspicious of any art depicting God or humans; they demanded the destruction of icons because they saw icons as idolatry. **Iconodules:** also called "venerators of icons," they defended the place of icons in the Church. The controversy, however, was more than a struggle over different views of Christian art. Deeper issues were involved, and it is these the Council addressed: The character of Christ's human

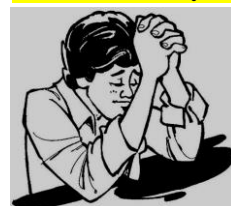
nature; The Christian attitude toward matter; The true meaning of Christian redemption and the salvation of the entire material universe. The controversy falls into two periods: From 726 AD when Leo III began his attack on icons until AD 780 when Empress Irene ended the attacks. Again from 815 AD through 843 AD when Empress Theodora stamped out the attacks permanently. The iconoclasts had support from both inside and outside the Church. Outside the Church, there may have been influence from Jewish and Muslim ideas, and it is important to note that just prior to the iconoclast outbreak Muslim Caliph Yezid ordered the removal of all icons with his territory. Inside the Church there had always existed a "puritan" outlook which saw all images as latent idolatry. Largely through the work of **St. John of Damascus** (c. 676-749), who, ironically, was housed in Muslim-controlled lands and therefore outside the reach of the Empire, the iconodules' position won out. He addressed the charges of the iconoclasts thus: *Concerning the charge of idolatry: Icons are not idols but symbols, therefore when an Orthodox venerates an icon, he is not guilty of idolatry. He is not worshipping the symbol, but merely venerating it. Such veneration is not directed toward wood, or paint or stone, but towards the person depicted. Therefore, relative honor is shown to material objects, but worship is due to God alone. We do not make obeisance to the nature of wood, but we revere and do obeisance to Him who was crucified on the Cross... When the two beams of the Cross are joined together I adore the figure because of Christ who was crucified on the Cross, but if the beams are separated, I throw them away and burn them.* —St. John of Damascus

## October Respect-Life Month

### 2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK INTENTION OF REPECT LIFE MONTH:

#### Prayer for the Mentally Challenged

**Heavenly Father, we have been created in the image of You. Help us to see**



**Your image more clearly and strongly in all creatures of Your love, and particularly in those which we describe as mentally challenged, though they are whole in Your sight, and have a place and purpose in Your divine plan for all mankind. Help us to enable them to fully participate in the abundant life which is Your will for all mankind.... In this may Your Name be blessed and glorified, Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.**

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| October 16  | (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.  |
| October 19  | (MR) PAC/FAC Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.   |
| October 23  | (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.  |
| October 25  | Sunday of Christ the King.   |
| October 30  | (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.  |
| November 1  | Eastern Standard Time Resumes: Clocks FALL BACK one hour.<br>Moleben for the advancement of the Causes of Our 4 saintly hierarchs (MR) @ 3:00 p.m. |
| November 3  | General Election Day — Defend the most vulnerable: cast your Pro-Life Vote.  |
| November 8  | Synaxis of St. Michael & All Angels.   |
| November 15 | Commencement of the Philippian (Filipovka) Fast.   |

## Saints of the Week

### Holy Martyrs Nazarius, Gervasius, Protasius & Celsius of Milan — October 14

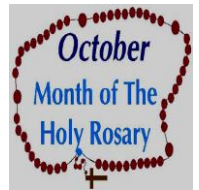
The Holy Martyrs Nazarius, Gervasius, Protasius and Celsius of Milan suffered during the reign of the emperor Nero (54-68). St Nazarius (son of the Christian Perpetua and the Jew Africanus) was born at Rome and was baptized by Bishop Linus. From his youth Nazarius decided to devote his life to preaching Christ and to aid wandering Christians. With this intent he left Rome and arrived in Mediolanum (Milan). St Nazarius met Protasius and Gervasius when he was visiting Christians in the Mediolanum prison. He so loved the twins that he wanted to suffer and die with them. The ruler heard that he was visiting the prisoners, so he had St Nazarius beaten with rods, then driven from the city. St Nazarius proceeded to Gaul (modern France), and there he successfully preached Christianity and converted many pagans. In the city of Kimel he baptized Celsius, the son of a Christian woman who entrusted her child to the saint. Nazarius raised the boy in piety, and acquired a faithful disciple and coworker in his missionary labors. The pagans



threw the saints to wild animals to be eaten, but the beasts would not touch them. Afterwards, they tried to drown the martyrs in the sea, but they walked upon the water as if on dry land. The soldiers who carried out the orders were so amazed that they themselves accepted Christianity and released the holy martyrs. SS. Nazarius and Celsius went to Milan and visited Gervasius and Protasius in prison. For this, they were brought before Nero, who ordered that SS. Nazarius and Celsius be beheaded. Soon after this the holy brothers Gervasius and Protasius were also executed. The relics of all four martyrs were stolen by a Christian named Philip, and were buried in his house. Many years later, during the reign of the holy Emperor Theodosius (408-450), St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (December 7), discovered the relics of SS. Gervasius and Protasius through a revelation from God. In the reign of Arcadius and Honorius, St Ambrose also discovered the relics of SS. Nazarius and Celsius. The holy relics, glorified by many healings, were solemnly transferred to the Milan Cathedral.

# 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.



**ARCHIEPARICHAL ST. NICHOLAS 50/50 RAFFLE** — This year marks the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Nicholas Celebration at the Cathedral and Cathedral Center normally to be held on **Sunday, December 6, 2020, Due to the pandemic, there will be NO public celebration.** However, last year's raffle will be extended again. A minimal amount of tickets (14) from GCU Headquarters have been sent to each parish in order to acquire additional capital for the Seminary. Very little profit is made from the dinner tickets themselves. To help subsidize this charity event, please support this worthy cause by purchasing a ticket. **They are \$10.00** and the first 3-digit number based on the Sunday, **December 6, 2020 PA Daily Drawing at 7:00 p.m.** Many prizes will be awarded. Tickets are now available. Tickets are now available.

**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 Archieparichal 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.



**YOUTH GROUP TAKING CANDY ORDERS THE VIRTUAL WAY** — Every two years our Youth Group attends the **Byzan-TEEN Rally.** It is a wonderful chance for our youth to meet other Byzantine Catholics from across the country. In 2021 we are hoping to send 7 teens and 2 chaperones to Mt. St. Mary's University in Maryland. In order to defray the cost, the Holy Ghost Youth Group is holding a virtual fundraiser from Sarris Candies. This is a contactless fundraiser and all purchases will be shipped directly to the buyer free of charge. You can purchase anything from the company and we will receive 25% of the sale. Just follow these steps and candy will be on the way:

1. **Go to [sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://sarriscandiesfundraising.com)**
2. **Go to the "fundraising" tab.**
3. **Our group code is 10-3617.**
4. **You do not have to put in a teen's name unless you want to.**
5. **Shop!**

This fundraiser ends on Nov. 1. Thank you so much for your help! — Holy Ghost Youth Group.



**FUNDRAISING**