

Parish Offerings – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost — November 8, 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 (\$1,496) YP (\$1)	\$1,497.00
Holy Days (\$165) YP (\$4)	169.00
Archdiocesan Charities (\$125) Collection for the Poor (\$10)	135.00
Votive Candles	61.75
	<hr/>
	\$1,862.75

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$718.00
Holy Days (\$50) Thanksgiving (\$5)	55.00
Utilities (\$10) Archdiocesan Charities (\$10)	20.00
Votive Candles	33.50
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	\$826.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (27)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (48); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)



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

STAY UP THERE! STOP FALLING! STOP FALLING, I SAY! STAY UP THERE!

DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 262-9141
 Nancy C. Debranski
 Sewing, Alternations, 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 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1st Sunday of the Philippian Fast — November 15, 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).

November 15, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 46



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Commencement of the Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

1st Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Nov. 15 (1) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Charles (7th ann) + Julia Wovchko Anonymous
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew

Mon, Nov 16 (2) 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Deceased Pastors & Cantors Hubal Family
of Holy Ghost Church

Tue, Nov 17 (3) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak Wife Nancy & Family
(40th day of passing 11/16)

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

for the intention of the return of our beloved back to God and His Church

Wed, Nov 18 (4) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Peter + Zachary Zappas Family

Thrs, Nov 19 (5) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + June Muska Husband: Mike

Prefestive of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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

for the intention of the return of our beloved back to God and His Church

Fri, Nov 20 (6) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowatch (birthday) Anne Meyers

Solemn Holy Day anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Entrance Feast

6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Sat, Nov 21 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen (Seman) Lucy (1st ann of pass) Beverly & + Michael Harsh
11:00 a.m. (MR) Funeral of + Irene Palahunik

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John R. Debranski (14th ann of passing 11/21) Dgtr: Nancy



25th Sunday after Pentecost

2nd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Postfestive of Entrance Feast

SUN., Nov. 22 (8) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka Children
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marian Begala (10th ann of pass 11/25) Dgtr: 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: Nov 15 – Barbara Feldman; Nov 16 – Maria Iyengar, Paul A. Rubish;
Nov 17 – Kathleen Marks; Nov 21 – MARLENE PFEIFFER .

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, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Anna May Sejka, Betty Spisak, Karen Stebbins, 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. The family of a deceased Catholic friend is considering giving the cremated remains to a company that will process a diamond out of the cremains. Can you help me give them a good reason why this is wrong? **A.** **Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Although the Church allows for cremation (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2301), (although it teaches preference for burial/entombment in imitation of Christ) it is very concerned that the cremains be treated with appropriate respect (*Indult on Cremation*, Congregation for Divine Worship, 1997). The cremains should not be scattered but should be disposed of in a dignified manner, whether by committing them to the earth or sea in a suitable container or by placing them in a mausoleum (*Order of Christian Funerals* 416).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Nov. 15 — Nov. 21, 2020

(MR): **In memory of Bordas & Budul Families**

offered by Irene Bordas

(NS): **In memory of Thomas Seman**

(MR) Now available for 2021 offered by Sister: Velma Seman (NS) Now available for 2021



Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 15	Commencement of the Philippian (Filipovka) Fast.
November 15	Commencement of the Philippian (Filipovka) Fast.
November 20	Solemn HD: Entrance into the Temple of Theotokos - Vigil – (NS) 6:00 p.m.
November 21	Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos: (MR) 9:00 a.m.
November 26	Annual Thanksgiving Day — (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.
December 6	Feast of St. Nicholas, the Wonder-Worker.

Saints of the Week — November 18 Great-Martyr Plato of Ancyra & Romanus

Plato was from the town of Ancyra in Galatia. He was a Christian by birth and upbringing. While in his youth, he showed great perfection in every virtue. Plato did not conceal his faith in Christ the Lord, but preached it openly, denouncing idolaters because of their worshiping lifeless objects in place of the Living Creator. For this, he was brought to trial before Governor Agrippinus, and was interrogated and harshly tortured by him. When the governor counseled him to avoid death and save his life by worshiping the idols, Plato said: *“There are two deaths, the one temporal and the other eternal; so also, are there two lives, one of short duration and the other without end.”* Then Agrippinus subjected him to even harsher tortures. Among other tortures, red-hot cannon balls were set on the saint’s naked body; then they cut strips from his skin. “Torture me more harshly,” the martyr cried out to the tortures, “so that your inhumanity and my endurance may be seen more clearly.” When the torturer reminded the martyr that his namesake, Plato the philosopher, was a pagan, the martyr replied: **“I am not like Plato, nor is Plato like me except in name. I learn and teach the wisdom of Christ, but Plato was a teacher of wisdom that is foolishness to God.”** After that, Plato was thrown into prison, where he remained for eighteen days without food and water. When the guards were amazed that Plato was able to live in hunger for so long, he told them: “You are satisfied by meat, but I, by holy prayers. Wine gladdens you, but Christ the True Vine gladdens me.” Plato was beheaded in about the year 266 and received his wreath of eternal glory.



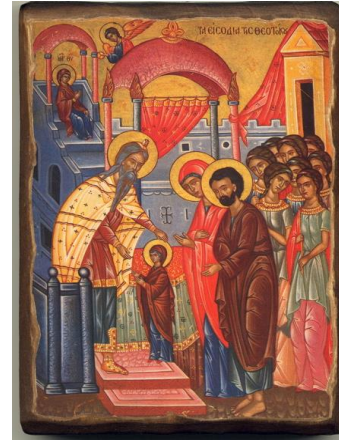
Romanus (also known as Roman) was born in Palestine, and served as a deacon in Caesarea. At the time of the persecution against Christians, he was living in Antioch. Through his preaching, he encouraged the faithful to stand firm in their confession of Christ when the Eparch Asclypiades wanted to raze the church to its foundations. Saint Romanus told the people that they must fight to prevent the destruction of the house of God, assuring them that even if they died in their efforts they would sing a hymn of victory in heaven. At that time there a festival was being celebrated in honor of the idols, and Saint Romanus went to the pagan temple to upbraid the Eparch and the unbelievers for their impiety. As Asclypiades was about to enter the temple, Saint Romanus fearlessly proclaimed that the idols were not gods, and that only Jesus Christ was truly God! Asclypiades ordered the saint to be beaten, and even tried to persuade him to deny Christ. When this failed, the Eparch ordered that Saint Romanus be tortured. He was suspended and beaten, and his sides were scraped with metal blades. Bravely enduring these torments, Saint Romanus confessed Christ, and chastised Asclypiades for his obstinate refusal to see the truth. Then Saint Romanus was condemned to death by fire. As soon as the fire was lit, however, a rain fell and put it out. Then the Eparch ordered the saint’s tongue to be cut out, because he still confessed Christ and reviled the idolaters. Even after his tongue was cut out, the saint continued to speak as before. Finally, Saint Romanus was nailed to a keg, and he was strangled in his prison cell.



General Announcements

Solemn Holy Day of the Week — Nov. 21 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

The origin of the feast is found in an account in the apocryphal Protoevangelium of Saint James. According to this document, after Saint Anne’s miraculous birth-giving, the



Most Holy Virgin having completed her second year, Joachim said to his wife: “Let us lead her to the Lord’s Temple, as we promised Him.” Ann said: *“Let us wait until her third year, so that the child will not clamor for her father or mother, thus she will not walk straight before the Lord.”* When the child was three years old, Joachim said: *“Let us call from among the daughters of the Hebrews those who are undefiled, and let them each take a lamp and let these lamps be lit, that the child not turn to look backward and her heart be not held captive outside the Lord’s Temple.”* They did thusly. Zachary the priest received her and said to her: *“May the Lord crown your name with glory!”*, and he set her down on the altar step. There, Mary was

nourished by an angel until she was twelve years old. When the time came for her to marry, Joseph received her from the priests’ hands, and took her from the Lord’s Temple. Whatever the foundations of this gracious legend may be, the Church invites us above all to meditate on the mystery of the internal preparation of Mary for her vocation as Theotokos. This preparation is a total self-commitment, in the “immaculate victim,” “as a most holy vessel” which must receive the body of the Word incarnate, “a living temple and throne of the King, elected to be his Mother,” “the spiritual ark enclosing the incomprehensible Word.” The miracle of her subsistence by the hand of the Archangel is the symbol of her spiritual life entirely nourished by the will of God. **Come and pray with us at the Divine Liturgy. See the liturgical schedule for times.**

BOTH HGCs TO PARTICIPATE IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE —



In our love for the less fortunate, our both parishes will be holding an annual non-perishable food drive to be delivered to the *Inter Faith Churches Food Bank, McKees Rocks* in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please bring the non-expired items to the Church and place them at the entrance. Many places are not taking non-perishable food due to Covid-19. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092. Once again, we are

grateful to her for leading this project.

BOTH CHURCH DECORATING FORTHCOMING — We will begin decorating the Church for Christmas on **Sunday, November 29, 2020 following the Divine Liturgy in MR & NS.** This time seems the most appropriate since all will be here already. Please make an effort to give a helping hand. We’re going to need muscle power for the heavy work of setting up the trees.



McKees Rocks Announcements

ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR LESS FORTUNATE AREA CHILDREN — GCU Pittsburgh Northwest Lodge is, once again, holding a fraternal activity to help area children who may not be getting much for Christmas this year. This project is the ANGEL TREE located near the elevator in the side vestibule. Not too many angels remaining! If you would like to participate and make a child's Christmas a little brighter this year you are asked to take an angel from the tree. It will have a child's age listed on the back. You are asked to purchase a gift and bring it back to the tree **UNWRAPPED with the angel taped on it** no later than **Sunday, December 6**. Holy Family Social Services and Family Foundation will distribute these gifts to the children in time for Christmas. Let's send this entire tree of angels in the form of gifts to these under-privileged children. You may call to make a donation to the project and we will do the shopping in your name. Call Barb Stecko (412) 334-8245



INVITATION OUR ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION ON THE ACTUAL FEAST DAY — Sunday December 6, 2020 following the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. **RSVP will be required to attend** # of adults, # of children grade 5 and under # of children grade 6 and up. This year we will have family pod seating and separate food service for those attending our annual St. Nicholas celebration. This requires RSVP with accurate numbers to prepare both the room and food. The youth group will have a brief presentation and photos with St. Nicholas will be available. **Program:** for Youth Group presentation focusing on St. Nicholas always comes even in bad times like COVID 19. Presentations will be short and story based presented by some youth group members. **Seating:** Will be family pod based. We will setup tables and chairs in family pod groups with social distancing for the main gym area. **Student gifts:** These will be prepared in the normal two groups pre-k to grade 5 and Middle/HS group. **Food Service:** This will be pod based individual or family style so there is no common mixing to pick up or share in common areas. We are researching options here. We will be following the format allowed by area restaurants in the light of the pandemic regulations. If they stop inside service, we will also cancel the celebration. We are committed in teaching the Faith to our children and an environment that is committed to safety for all. — Steve Puluka, E.C.F. Coordinator

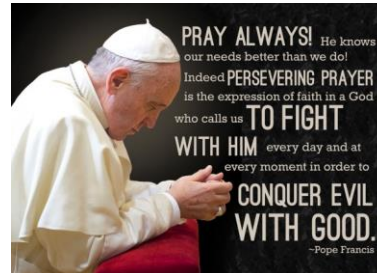
Other than the Church decorating, there are no other particular announcements.

(cont. Pope Teaches Prayer at last week's Wednesday Audience):

"Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (14:13). And the Catechism explains that "the certitude that our petitions will be heard is founded on the prayer of Jesus" (n. 2614). It gives the wings that the human person's prayer has always desired to possess. How can we fail to recall here the words of Psalm 91, laden with trust, springing from a heart that hopes for everything from God: "he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday" (vv. 4-6). It is in Christ that this stupendous prayer is fulfilled, and in Him that it finds its complete truth. Without Jesus, our prayer risks being reduced to human effort, destined most of the time to failure. But He has taken on Himself every cry, every groan, every jubilation, every supplication...every human prayer. And let us not forget that the Holy Spirit prays in us; it is He who leads us to pray, who leads us to Jesus. He is the gift that the Father and the Son gave us to foster an encounter with God. And when we pray, it is the Holy Spirit who prays in our hearts. Christ is everything for us, even in our prayer life. Saint Augustine said this with an enlightening expression that we also find in the Catechism: Jesus "prays for us as our priest, prays in us as our Head, and is prayed to by us as our God. Therefore, let us acknowledge our voice in him and his in us" (n. 2616). This is why the Christian who prays fears nothing, he or she trusts in the Holy Spirit who was given to us as a gift and who prays in us, eliciting prayer. May the Holy Spirit, Teacher of prayer, teach us the path of prayer.

POPE TEACHES PERSISTENT PRAYER

Dear Brothers and sisters, good morning!: We continue the catechesis on prayer. Someone said to me: "You talk too much about prayer. It is not necessary". Yes, it is necessary. Because if we do not pray, we will not have the strength to go forward in life. Prayer is like the



oxygen of life. Prayer draws down on us the Holy Spirit's presence who always leads us forward. For this reason, I speak a lot about prayer. Jesus has given an example of continual prayer, practiced perseveringly. Constant dialogue with His Father, in silence and in recollection, was the fulcrum of His entire mission. The Gospels also report His exhortations to the disciples, so that they might pray insistently, without getting tired. The Catechism recalls three parables contained in

the Gospel of Luke that underline this characteristic of Jesus's prayer (see CCC, 2613). **First of all, prayer must be tenacious:** like the person in the parable who, having to welcome a guest who arrived unexpectedly in the middle of the night, goes to knock on the door of a friend and asks him for some bread. The friend responds, "No!", because he is already in bed – but he insists and insists until he constrains his friend to get up and give him some bread (see Lk 11:5-8). A tenacious request. But God is more patient with us, and the person who knocks with faith and perseverance on the door of His heart will not be disappointed. God always responds. Always. Our Father knows well what we need; insistence is necessary not to inform Him or to convince Him, but is necessary to nurture the desire and expectation in us. **The second parable** is that of the widow who goes to the judge for his help in obtaining justice. This judge is corrupt, he is a man without scruples, but in the end, exasperated by the insistence of the widow, decides to please her (see Lk 18:1-8)... He thought: "But, it is better to resolve this problem and get her off my back so she will not continue coming to me to complain". This parable makes us understand that faith is not a momentary choice, but a courageous disposition to call on God, even to "argue" with Him, without resigning oneself to evil and injustice. **The third parable** presents a pharisee and a publican who go to the Temple to pray. The first turns to God boasting of his merits; the other feels unworthy even to enter the sanctuary. While God does not listen to the prayer of the first, that is of those who are proud, He does grant the prayer of the humble (see Lk 18:9-14). There is no true prayer without a spirit of humility. It is specifically humility that leads us to ask in prayer. The teaching of the Gospel is clear: we need to pray always, even when everything seems in vain, when God appears to be deaf and mute and it seems we are wasting time. Even if heaven is overshadowed, the Christian does not stop praying. A Christian's prayer keeps stride with his or her faith. There are many days of our life when faith seems to be an illusion, a sterile exertion. There are moments of darkness in our life, and in those moments, faith may seem to be an illusion. But the practice of prayer means accepting even this exertion. "Father, I pray and do not feel anything ... It feels like my heart is dry, that my heart is arid". But we must continue exerting ourselves in the tough moments, the moments in which we feel nothing. Many saints experienced the night of faith and God's silence – when we know and God does not respond – and these saints were persevering. During those nights of faith, the one who prays is never alone. Jesus, in fact, is not only a witness and teacher of prayer; He is more. He welcomes us in His prayer so that we might pray in Him and through Him. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, the Gospel invites us to pray to the Father in Jesus's name. Saint John provides these words of the Lord: **(Continued on particular announcement section of the S.O.T.) ...**