

Parish Offerings – 25th Sunday after Pentecost — November 22, 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 (\$1,461.75) YP (\$6)	\$1,467.75
Holy Days (\$187) Thanksgiving (\$115.75)	302.75
Special Donation (In Memory of Margo Family)	80.00
Votive Candles (\$108.50) Archdiocesan Charities (\$15)	123.50
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	\$1,974.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$467.00
Holy Days (\$52) Thanksgiving (\$100)	152.00
Utilities (\$72) Improvements (\$15)	87.00
Special Donation (In Memory of Anna & John Mammy)	105.00
Votive Candles (\$76.75) Collection for the Poor (\$50)	126.65
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	\$937.65

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28)

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

Entrance into the Temple — (MR) 9:00 am (7); 6:00 pm (12)

Thanksgiving Day — (MR) 9:00 am (20)

*Thank You God
for everything in my life.
The good & bad.
Some were
Blessings
& some were
Lessons!*

No School!
Happy Thanksgiving!

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412)
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFP3
III Serving Yours Since 1953



Thanksgiving Day SURVIVOR

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 580-1545
Nandce@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski
*Sewing, Alterations, Custom
Embroidery and Unique Gifts*



GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
NWPL offers Insurance and
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**

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without an added expense to
the Church. New Sponsors
please contact Church Office**



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — November 29, 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 29, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 48



Late

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



Requested By

Liturgical Services for the Week

Time

Intention

26th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Thanksgiving Weekend

SUN., Nov. 29 (15) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Alphonse A. Siglow Dgr: Kathryn & William Kress
(10th ann of passing 11/30)



11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary + Albert Stratemeier Grandson: Bradley Spontak

The Holy & Glorious Apostle Andrew, the First-Called

Mon, Nov 30 (16) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Drukalsky Sister: Eleanor Masters

The Old Testament Prophet Nahum

Tue, Dec 1 (17) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frances Jandri Dgr: Ljubica & Pete Gataric
(9th ann of passing 11/30)

The Old Testament Prophet Habakkuk

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, Dec 2 (18) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Kurt W. Perschy (Birthday) Kurt



The Old Testament Prophet Zephaniah

Thrs, Dec 3 (19) 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

for the Dual intention for the (1) return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith; and on this First Friday of the month (2) in reparation of the offenses against the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Fri, Dec 4 (20) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Kriska Marge & James Lautenschlager
(2nd ann of passing 11/3)

First Saturday of the month in reparation of the blasphemies against the Most Holy Theotokos
Sat, Dec 5 (21) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Marian G. Weigand (3rd ann of passing) Sadie & Jerry

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

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Andrew Yakubik (11th ann of passing) Dgr: Evelyn



27th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Nicholas, Wonder-Worker — 4th Sunday of Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 6 (22) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Safranko (birthday 12/13) Grand-Dgr: Zizi
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Tony Nee (13th ann of passing 12/7) Slagle & Harper 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: Nov 29 – Leonora Haffly; Nov 30 – Irene Bordas, Paul Rubish, Jr.; Dec 2 Kurt Perschy; Dec 4 – William Bell; Dec 5 – Lee Feldman, THEODORE HELMS.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Helen Best, Richard Billy, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Olga Manfredo, Joseph Mitro, Irene Muha, 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 a more serious sin to receive Communion unworthily than to commit the unconfessed mortal sin? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: To receive communion unworthily is a form of sacrilege. It would be committing another grievous sin in addition to the mortal sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church: To respond to this invitation we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment. St. Paul urges us to examine our conscience: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before coming to Communion (1385).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Nov. 29 — Dec. 5, 2020

R): In memory of Michael Sejka (61st ann of pass 11/24)

offered by Children

(NS): In memory of Elizabeth Schaffer

(MR) Available for 2021

offered by Sister: Velma Seman

(NS) Available for 2021



McKees Rocks Announcements

E.C.F. ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION NEXT WEEK — Following the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy next Sunday, Dec. 6, our Religious Education Students will be hosting the Annual St. Nicholas Program. All are welcomed to attend! You must call in reservations to Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 897-4650. Arrangements have appeared in the last few S.O.T. Church Bulletins. We are setting the program in a safe environment during the pandemic.

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.



FUNDRAISING

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
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!

North Side Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner **Martha Lucas, 97**, of Woods Run, passed away at her Son's home in the North Hills on Tuesday, November 24, 2020. The Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, California Avenue, handled the arrangements. She was the beloved mother of Robert (Joyce). A Funeral Service was offered on Saturday, November 27 followed by interment at Highwood Cemetery, North Side. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Lucas Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Martha, and remember her forever. *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat!*

(continuation) These exercises should be performed on the first Saturday of five consecutive months with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. February 15, 1926, the Child Jesus to Sr. Lucia concerning the devotion of the consecutive Five First Saturdays: *"It is true my daughter, that many souls begin the First Saturdays, but few finish them, and those who do complete them do so in order to receive the graces that are promised thereby. It would please me more if they did Five with fervor and with the intention of making reparation to the Heart*



*of your heavenly Mother, than if they did Fifteen in a tepid and indifferent manner..."***The Five blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart:** Our Lord revealed to Sr. Lucia that there are five ways in which people offend and blaspheme against the Immaculate Heart of Mary: (A) Against the Immaculate Conception; (B) Against her virginity; (C) Against the Divine Maternity, while refusing to receive her as the Mother of mankind (D) By those who try to publicly implant in the hearts of children indifference, disrespect, and even hate against the Immaculate Mother; and (E) By those who insult her directly in her sacred images

Parents: Have the children place their shoes outside their room prior to going to sleep on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5.

Meditation on Today's Gospel

Sanctify the Lord's Day by good works not Selfish Acts

Luke 13:10-17

There are a number of important points to keep in mind about the sanctification of the Lord's Day. God's commandment prescribes the sanctification of the whole day. We need to keep this in mind in our times when so many people feel that all we have to do is go to church for one hour on Sunday and rest of the day belongs to us. **WRONG!** ... The whole day is the Lord's Day. It belongs to Him! How do we keep it holy? It is a day of rest when people should put away their tools of labor. But it doesn't mean that people should be lazy or slothful because that too is a sin. Besides going to church it can be a time for visiting, or going to see the sick. To heal their bent spirits by lifting them up by our visitation. It should be a day for doing good. "Remember that thou shall keep holy the Lord's Day." There are many things involved in this commandment. But there is a starting place, and the woman of the Gospel lesson today provides it. She was ill, she was crippled, but she was worshipping in church on the Lord's Day. We, too, can make such a start each Sunday in keeping the Lord's Day holy. Jesus said, "Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I amongst them." His special presence and power is felt when His family meets together that they might with one heart and one tongue raise a common plea to Him. When a hundred voices cry out: "Lord, have mercy," a situation is created which opens the gates of grace to flow.



First Five Saturdays Devotion Revealed by the Mother of God

During the July 13, 1917 apparition at Fatima, Our Lady said so kindly and so sadly: "You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart..."**The Great Promise:** Eight years after the Fatima apparitions, on December 10, 1925, Our Lady appeared again to Lucia, who was then a postulant in the Dorothean convent at Pontevedra, Spain. This time Our Lady appeared with the Child Jesus. She addressed Lucia as follows: "Look, my daughter, at my heart surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."**The Five First Saturdays of Reparation to Our Lady:** (1) Confession (8 days before or after) (2) Receive Holy Communion(can be at Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy); (3) Recite five decades of the Rosary; (4) Keep Our Lady company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary. **(Continuation near the end of the S.O.T)**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 29 Decorating the (MR) & (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 December 6 Feast of St. Nicholas, the Wonder-Worker.
 December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.
 December 20 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students following the DL.
 Special Holy Mystery of Reconciliation time for all — (MR) 3:00 pm.
 December 22 (NS) Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 6:00 p.m.
 December 24 (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 p.m. Vespers w/DL of St. Basil the Great.

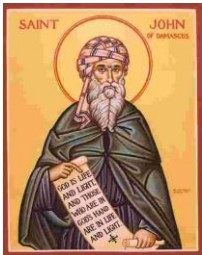
8:00 p.m. (MR) Great Compline followed by Christmas Carols; 9:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy.
December 25 . 9:00 a.m. (MR) Christmas Divine Liturgy; 11:00 a.m. (NS) Christmas Divine Liturgy.

 December 26 2nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 December 27 3rd Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen .
 January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 am.

Saint of the Week — December 4

St. John Damascene

Saint John of Damascus was born about the year 680 at Damascus, Syria into a Christian family. His father, Sergius Mansur, was a treasurer at the court of the Caliph. John had also a foster brother, the orphaned child Cosmas (October 14), whom Sergius had taken into his own home. When the children were growing up, Sergius saw that they received a good education. After the death of his father, John occupied ministerial posts at court and became the city prefect. In Constantinople at that time, the heresy of Iconoclasm had arisen and quickly spread, supported by the emperor Leo III the Isaurian (717-741). Rising up in defense of the True Faith of icons, St John wrote three treatises entitled, "Against Those who Revile the Holy Icons." The wise and God-inspired writings of St John enraged the emperor. But since the author was not a Byzantine subject, the emperor was unable to lock him up in prison, or to execute him. The emperor then resorted to slander. A forged letter to the emperor was produced, supposedly from John. This letter and another hypocritically flattering note were sent to the Saracen Caliph by Leo the Isaurian. The Caliph immediately ordered that St John be removed from his post, that his right hand be cut off, and that he be led through the city in chains. That same evening, they returned the severed hand to St John. The saint pressed it to his wrist and prayed to the Most Holy Theotokos to heal him so that he could defend the True Faith and write once again in praise of the Most Pure Virgin and Her Son. After a time, he fell asleep before the icon of the Mother of God. He heard Her voice telling him that he had been healed, and commanding him to toil unceasingly with his restored hand. Upon awakening, he found that his hand had been attached to his arm once more. Only a small red mark around his wrist remained as a sign of the miracle. Later, in thanksgiving for being healed, St John had a silver model of his hand attached to the icon, which became known as "Of the Three Hands." Some unlearned painters have given the Mother of God three hands instead of depicting the silver model of St John's hand. John entered the monastery of St Sava the Sanctified.. It was there that John wrote his renowned funeral troparia ("What earthly delight," "All human vanity," and others). He left the monastery only to denounce the iconoclasts at the Constantinople Council of 754. They subjected him to imprisonment and torture, but he endured everything, and through the mercy of God he remained alive. He died in about the year 780, more than 100 years old.



**Come O Jesus Our Savior,
Redeem and Save Us!**

General Announcements

THE 3rd SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS — As we continue



this minor penitential period we are directed to follow Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem by preparing ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. Not only prior to Christmas but always through our earthly pilgrimage, we must carry Him reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. It is through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings, frequent confession of sins, works of virtue and additional participation in Divine Liturgies, we can accomplish this end. Together as a parish, let us collectively practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (required) for the intention for the return of our beloved back to Church. The color **PURPLE** is worn as a sign of **ROYALTY** of the One to be born in Bethlehem.

QUALIFICATIONS TO BE ADMITTED AS SPONSOR AT BAPTISM & CHRISMATION — If

you are asked to be a Sponsor (Godparent) you are to be congratulated for taking on a life-long and awesome responsibility to the one you are standing for. You must be a witness to them by **observing the Ten Commandments along with fulfilling the Precepts of the Catholic Church:** (1) Be Chrismated (Confirmed) and have completed your 15th year of age; (2) you must regularly attend the Divine Liturgy at least on all Sundays and all Holy Days of Obligation; (3) you must have made your Easter Duty Precept (Confession of Mortal Sins and Reception of Holy Communion during the Paschal Season); (4) You must donate in some capacity your time, talent and treasure (contribution envelopes) for the mission of your home-local parish; (5) you must offer fasting (abstinence) according to requirements of your particular Rite; and (6) if married, you must be married according to the laws of the Catholic Church. If you are asked to be a Sponsor in another Catholic Church, you will be asked to provide a "Sponsor Certificate" from your home parish which indicates that you are observing the above requirements. *By not fulfilling these requirements, your role will be that of a Christian Witness.*



GCU LODGE ELECTS OFFICERS FOR ANOTHER YEAR — At the last Lodge Meeting the following were, once again-elected officers: President: Tina Burns; Vice-President: Roxanne Savka; Secretary-Treasurer: Steve Puluka; Auditors: Bunny Zavidny & Mitch Galiyas. Remember, we are now known as GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE.

2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX NEXT WEEKEND — Your 2020 Contribution Envelopes will be ready for pickup next weekend.

Please look for your name and not your current number. If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office. **Please do not use your 2021 until January!** We wish to thank the **Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home and Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home** for sponsoring our calendars once again this year



BOTH HGCs CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE — Thank



you to all that have participated in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. You have made a difference! In our continued love for the less fortunate, both parishes will continue holding a non-perishable food drive to be delivered to the *Interfaith Churches Food Bank, McKees Rocks* in time for Christmas. Please bring the non-expired items to the Church and place them at the entrance. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092. Once again, we are grateful to her for leading this project.