

**Parish Offerings – 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — December 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 .....	\$2,710.50
Holy Days (\$435.50) YP (\$13) Thanksgiving (\$55) .....	503.50
Christmas (\$20) Christmas Décor (\$236) .....	256.00
Votive Candles .....	98.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,568.00

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$883.00
Holy Days (\$205) Christmas (\$20) Christmas Décor (\$88) .....	313.00
Utilities (\$40) Improvement (\$5) .....	45.00
Votive Candles .....	42.00
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	\$1,283.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (32)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (46); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)

Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (12); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (11)



IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM



Right, we've picked up the gold and the myrrh...what on earth is THAT?!

**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE SUNDAY OF THE O.T. FOREFATHERS**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast — December 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](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  
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

Fax: (412) 331-6688

**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
*Ill Serving Yours Since 1953*

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A Fraternal Benefit Society

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**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 Office**



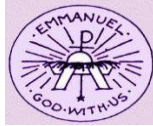
# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

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).

December 13, 2020 Seasonal Greeting Volume X, Number 50



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>Sunday of the Old Testament Forefathers</b>			
<b>5th Sunday of the Philippian Fast</b>			

SUN., Dec 13 (29)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Fejka (12 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 12/16)	Dgtr: Susie
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Pauline + Mitchel Bodnarchuk (ann of passings)	Son: Paul & Leslie

Mon, Dec 14 (30)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Andrew Kundrat, Jr.	Theresa Kundrat
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Tue., Dec 15 (31)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary + Mike Muska	Son: Mike
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**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 16 (32)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Perschy (18 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)	Son: Kurt
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Thrs, Dec 17 (33)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Florence Kraly (11 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 12/16)	Zula Family
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**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, Dec 18 (34)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Alexander C. Alman (birthday 12/19)	Anonymous
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### Saturday before Christmas

Sat, Dec 19 (35)	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Helen Petrancosta	Mary Sahayda
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### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Old Testament Holy Fathers

4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Nicholas Terrek (birthday)	Wife: Mildred & Family
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## Sunday of the Old Testament Holy Fathers

### 6<sup>th</sup> & Final Sunday of the Philippian Fast

### Prefestive of Christmas

SUN., Dec 20 (36)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Ethel Galida (birthday 12/31) Jerry, Barb & Cat Galida
	3:00 p.m. (MR)	Guest Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation

# 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:** Dec 13 – Nicholas Harsh; Dec 14 – CHRISTOPHER MEADERS, Steven Puluka, Roberta Rubish.; Dec 18 – Diane Kosko, Lauren Kovacs.

## 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, Iлона Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Olga Manfredo, Joseph Mitro, Irene Muha, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Anna May Sejka, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

**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.

**UPMC PASSAVANT** (9100 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Shirley Kotik.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** If God knows everything we do, then how come we have to go to Confession? **A.** Answer by a Catholic Apologist: We go to Confession to say "I'm sorry" for our sins, not to tell God something He does not already know. For example, you may know that your younger brother broke your Play Station Player, but wouldn't it be aggravating if he knew you knew, but still do not say "I'm sorry?" It would be a double slap in the face. In addition to saying "sorry" to God, Confession also reconciles us with the Church (CCC 1469). There is no such thing as a private sin. Every sin affects the world in a negative manner. There is always a ripple effect. When a Catholic accepts and takes advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, he builds up the Body of Christ (Col. 1:24; CCC 1496). He is implicitly saying, "I believe in the Sacrament, and you should too." This affirmation of the Sacrament can lead others to live a sacramental life (2 Cor. 8:21).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

## Dec. 13 — Dec. 19, 2020

(MR): In memory of Cantor John Fejka (12<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 12/16)

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS): In memory of Nicholas Senchyshyn (birthday 12/16)

(MR) Available for 2021

offered by Dgtr: Joan

(NS) Available for 2021

## McKees Rocks Announcements

**ANOTHER YEAR & TASK WELL DONE!!!** — Heartfelt thanks is extended to all who have graciously taken an angel from the Angel Tree, and turned it into a precious gift for a less-fortunate child in our local area for Christmas. The Holy Family Social Services in Emsworth and Family Foundation in McKees Rocks have gathered these gifts this past week and will distribute them to the children in time for Christmas. You were indeed very generous! A special thank you to the G.C.U. Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge for sponsoring this annual project. Enormous gratitude goes out to Barbara & Peter Stecko for sacrificing their time to make this event come to fruition for the children! God bless all of you and know that this is pleasing to Our Lord, and making a child very happy and loved this Christmas Season.



## North Side Announcements

**SYMPATHIES EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner **Evelyn Vento, 87**, of Cranberry Township who passed away at home on Thursday, December 3, 2020. The Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, California Avenue, handled the arrangements. A Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on December 12. Interment was in Highwood Cemetery, North Side. She was the beloved mother of Mary Ann (Ronald) Clayton & Michael. Evelyn served as President of the Altar Society for 50 years and was responsible for cleaning and changing the altar cloths. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Vento Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Evelyn, and remember her forever. *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat!*



**RESULTS OF BAKELESS BAKE SALE NEXT WEEK** — The donations for this GCU Matching Funds Event have now arrived. (NS) \$1,385.00 & (MR) \$680.00. **Total to be applied for matching expansion funds is \$2,065.00.** A huge thank you is extended to all who made this project successful, especially to our HGC-MR who participated in helping us reach this amount to be doubled. Also, thank you to our anonymous donor who sacrificially contributed \$1,000.00 of this total. God bless all of you for this monetary gift to the Church.



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**NEXT WEEKEND IS THE LAST WEEK FOR 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 Krzanich (412) 370-9092. Once again, we are grateful to her for leading this project.



**PANDEMIC TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS RESTROOM ROOM PROJECT** — *Century Interiors of the North Hills* has suspended our four restrooms project due to some of its labor personal contracting the coronavirus. There has been no tentative date scheduled until after the holidays.

## Meditation on today's Gospel

*The way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored* — Lk. 14:16-24

This familiar parable of the **Banquet** is proclaimed in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His coming. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God/man Jesus Christ comes into the world. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us. However, there were some who refused this invitation, considering their own affairs to be more important or more desirable than the feast of the King. Although God had chosen them, they did not choose God. Is this not like our first parents Adam and Eve? They too were chosen by God but they did not choose God and so were cast out of paradise. But our Creator, not willing to abandon His creation, prepared a way that we might return to Him. This preparation covered centuries and millennia of time; it was defined by the law and prophets. The Way that God prepared for us to return to Him is in fact the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself taking human flesh and dwelling among us. Just as through Adam all men fell into sin and corruption and death, now through Jesus Christ all men were invited to rise out of that condemnation and live again according to the love and grace of God. The Way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored. We had again been chosen by God. But some refused, instead choosing to follow their own desires. If we have refused may we now return to the Lord with our whole heart!



## Pope Francis Speaks: Prayer

**Pope's General Audience at St. Peter Square Dec. 9, 2020**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters*, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now turn to the prayer of petition. The Catechism explains that in every prayer we ask for the coming of God's Kingdom in our lives and in our world. Jesus taught us to pray to our heavenly Father, acknowledging our total dependence on him and trusting entirely in his providential care, even at the darkest moments in our lives. Prayer of petition arises naturally in human hearts. In the Bible we see countless prayers to God to intervene in the face of our helplessness before situations of sickness, injustice, betrayal and despair. Even the simple cry, "Lord, help me!" is itself a powerful prayer. God always hears the cry of those who call upon him. Saint Paul tells us that our prayers echo the yearning of all creation for the coming of the Kingdom (cf. *Rom 8:22-24*) and the fulfilment of God's saving plan. We make our prayers of petition with confidence in him who has triumphed over all evil through the cross and resurrection of his Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit, who intercedes on our behalf and quietly works to transform all things.



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

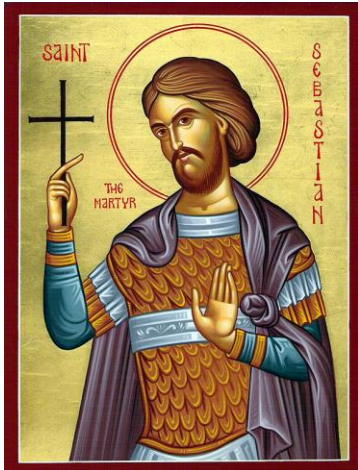
# Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 .....2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
 December 27 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Day This Week

### The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions December 18

The Holy Martyr Sebastian was born in the city of Narbonum in Gaul (modern France), and he received his education at Mediolanum (now Milan). He occupied the position of head of the imperial guards. St Sebastian was respected for his authority, and was loved by the soldiers and those at court. He was a brave man filled with wisdom, his word was honest, his judgment just, insightful in advice, faithful in his service and in everything entrusted to him. He was a secret Christian, not out of fear, but so that he could provide help to the brethren in a time of persecution. The noble Christian Deacon-Brothers Marcellinus and Mark had been locked up in prison, and at first they firmly confessed the true Faith. But under the influence of the tearful entreaties of their pagan parents (Tranquillinus and Marcia), and also their own wives and children, they began to waver in their intent to suffer for Christ. St Sebastian went to the imperial treasurer, at whose house Marcellinus and Mark were



held in confinement, and addressed the brothers who were on the verge of yielding to the entreaties of their family. Enemies reported him to Diocletian who reproached Sebastian for his supposed betrayal, and he commanded him to be led to a field and there to be bound to a stake so that archers would shoot arrows at him. "And the archers shot at him till he was as full of arrows" leaving him there for dead. Miraculously, the arrows did not kill him. The widow of Castulus, Irene of Rome, went to retrieve his body to bury it, and she discovered he was still alive. She brought him back to her house and nursed him back to health. The other residents of the house doubted he was a Christian. One of those was a girl who was blind. Sebastian asked her "Do you wish to be with God?", and made the sign of the Cross on her head. "Yes", she replied, and immediately regained her sight. Sebastian later stood on a step and harangued Diocletian as he passed by; the emperor had Sebastian beaten to death, and his body was thrown into a privy. But in an apparition, Sebastian told a Christian widow where they might find his body undefiled and bury it "at the catacombs by the apostles. Because of this, Sebastian is sometimes known as the saint who was martyred twice.

# General Announcements

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS CELEBRATED TODAY** — This is the Sunday that falls between December 11-17, the second Sunday before the Nativity. We commemorate the



**FOREFATHERS** of Christ according to the flesh who are remembered on this **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and 32<sup>nd</sup> Day of the Philippian Fast**. All the great Fathers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elijah and Daniel, and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah, Joachim and Anne, Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist and The Theotokos. They lived before the Law and under the

Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18). *Let us keep company with Mary and Joseph on the journey to Bethlehem as we contemplate our place at the banquet with the Holy Forefathers. Through prayer, abstinence, almsgiving of mercy, and frequent confession of sins, and attendance at Divine Liturgies we are empowered to follow the journey to this end.*

**SPECIAL TIMES FOR THE HOLY MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION NEXT WEEKEND** —

Special Confession times has been arranged to the following days & times to accommodate making a good Confession prior to Our Lord's Holy Nativity **(MR) Sunday, December 20, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m. & (NS) Tuesday, December 22, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.** Please make every effort to make a good and worthy Also, **Confessions are available at the regular times as indicated on the front of the S.O.T. Church Bulletin.** *Confession of sins before Christmas!* Prepare the Bethlehem of your soul and the manger of your heart for Our Lord's Holy Nativity. If you haven't made a Confession in many years, please do so at this time! A special guide is provided for you to examine your conscience can be picked up in the side vestibule & narthex. **Please prepare your souls to be the New Bethlehem and your hearts to be a fitting Manger for Our Lord on Christmas Day!**



**CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER** — The Church cannot operate very well if it weren't for volunteers! To show appreciation for all who volunteered in some aspect



of parish life throughout 2020, a **Parish Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township** will be tentatively held (depending on local Covid-19 regulations) on **Wednesday, December 30, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.** This includes all Altar Servers, Ushers, Cantors, Readers, Office Personnel, Collection Counters, Church & Rectory Cleaners and Decorators, Altar Cover changers, Catechists, Radio Ministry, etc.. A list is now located in the (MR) vestibule, and (NS) Narthex of the Church.

*Final day for signing Sunday, December 27. If the state & local ordinances change due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, a further cancellation announcement will appear in an upcoming S.O.T.*

**2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX** — Your 2021 Contribution Envelopes

will be ready for pickup today. **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!** Again, we wish to thank the **Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home and Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home** for sponsoring our calendars this year

