

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the O.T. Holy Fathers — December 20, 2020

“Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided;
not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$4,980) YP (\$29)	\$5,009.00
Holy Days (\$115) YP (\$5) Thanksgiving (\$10)	130.00
Christmas (\$80) Christmas Décor (\$25) Archdiocesan Collection (\$10)	115.00
Votive Candles	94.50
	<hr/> \$5,348.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

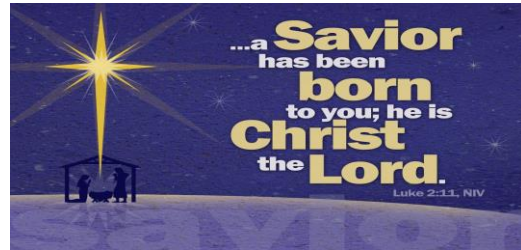
Regular Offering	\$667.00
Holy Days (\$1) Christmas (\$53) Improvement (\$2)	56.00
Special Donation (In Memory of Evelyn Vento)	100.00
Votive Candles	42.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$865.00

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (33)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (21); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)

Dec. 24 — (MR) Royal Hours 8:00 am (6); (MR) Great Vespers w/ St. Basil the Great 1 pm (8)
(MR) Christmas Divine Liturgy, 9:00 p.m. (21); (MR) 9:00 a.m. (32); (NS) 11:00 am (20)
Synaxis of Theotokos 2nd Day of Christmas, Dec. 26 — (MR) 9:00 am (8); (NS) 11:00 am (4)



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McKees Rocks, PA 15136
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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Happy Birthday Evelyn



**God grant you many
Happy & Blessed years!**
Brother, Gary

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



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS — Feast of St. Stephen

Also, Memory of King David, Righteous Joseph
& Apostle James — December 27, 2020



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko

Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter

The Reverend Deacon Michael E. Meaders (NS)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Web-site: www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY

Liturgical Services LIVE: www.Youtube.com then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

Sunday Divine Liturgies
Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm
Sunday (MR) 9:00 am
Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m.

Holy Day Divine Liturgies
w/Great Vespers (Oblig)
(MR): 7:00 pm
Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm

Daily Divine Liturgy
M-F (MR) 8:00 am
Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am

Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.

Holy Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.

Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact pastor one year in advance; Pre-Cana Classes required.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.

GCU Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.

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

O Joseph, announce to David, forefather of Christ, the good news of these wonders you have seen: A Virgin giving birth to a Child; with shepherds you have glorified Him; with the Magi you have worshipped Him; and an angel appeared to you. Beg Christ to save our souls (Troparion of the Synaxis Feast).

December 27, 2020

Christmas Christian Greeting: Volume X, Number 52

(Dec. 24 through Jan. 4):

Christ is Born! — Glorify Him!
Christos Razdajetsja! — Slavite Jeho!



FEAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLE, PROTO-MARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN — 3rd Day of Christmas

Sunday after Christmas — Righteous Joseph, King David & Apostle James

SUN, Dec 27 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Florence Charochak Dgtr: Debbie
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen (Seman) Lucy Florence & Debra Charochak

Mon, Dec 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(9th anniversary of passing)



Tue, Dec 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Hubal Family Family

Wed, Dec 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stjepan Jandri Dgtr: Ljubica & Pete Gataric



Thurs, Dec 31 **Final Day of the Nativity Feast**
8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD & FEAST OF ST. BASIL

New Year's Day — Solemn Holy Day — First Friday of January

54th anniversary of Prayer for World Peace — No Fasting this week

FRI, JAN 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health of Shirley Kotik Husband: Nick
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Agnes Kress Son: Bill & Kathe
(1st ann of passing)



Prefestive of Theophany — Saturday Before Theophany

First Saturday of January — Make reparation for the blasphemies against the Theotokos
Sat, Jan 2 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for Sunday before the Enlightenment

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Irene Palahunik Anonymous
(40th day of passing)

Sunday before the Enlightenment

SUN, Jan 3 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ernest Stebbins Elaine Kurtanich
(1st ann of passing 1/9)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + William (Bill) Gogal (birthday 1/9) Anonymous

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 27 — Nikolas Kotik; Dec 29 — Evelyn Yakubik; Dec 31 — Calahan Bedard; Jan 1 — Elaine Cassidy; Jan 2 — Stephanie Herron.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Helen Best, Richard Billy, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrutlak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Shirley Kotik, 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why is skipping Mass (Divine Liturgy) such a grievous sin as opposed to murder, which directly harms the life of another person? Skipping Mass (Divine Liturgy) affects no one but myself and God. **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** "Skipping Mass (Divine Liturgy) affects no one but myself and God." And God? Since when are human persons more important than God? There is an infinite difference between measuring God by our standards and measuring ourselves by his. We have to start with God when we look at everything. Since he came first, he comes first. He is not just a bigger version of us. He has commanded us to "Keep holy the Lord's day," and he has a right to demand this of us. Anything of value in our lives (including human life) has value only because of his infinitely greater value. But Mass (Divine Liturgy) is not just a matter of acknowledging his sovereignty, which is what worship is. It is being present at the foot of the cross and giving thanks for the Passion and death that he endured for our benefit. He loves us so much that he underwent all that suffering to demonstrate his love for us in a way we could somewhat understand. To skip Mass (Divine Liturgy) is one of many ways of turning our backs on that love.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Dec. 27 — Jan 2, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Loretta & Andrew Yakubik**
offered by Dgtr: Evelyn

(NS): **In memory of Dolores & Anthony Nee**

(MR) Available for 2021

offered by Lori Slagle

(NS) Available for 2021



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Paula (Kurtanich) Wynn**, of Florida, who passed into eternity recently following illness. She was the cousin of our (MR) Kurtanich parishioners. Her late father, Michael's funeral was a week ago. Her mother Dolores continues to reside in Sharpsville, PA. No further details were submitted to the S.O.T. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathy to the Kurtanich Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Paula, and remember her forever. Vcnaja Jim Pamjat'!

North Side Announcements

GRATITUDE FROM LIGHT OF LIFE MISSION — The donations for the Poor collected through your contribution envelopes were sent to the *Light of Life Mission* on the North Side was gratefully acknowledged: "Thank you for your monetary support of \$172.00. Merry Christmas and God Bless you all in the New Year — Tara Comroy, LOL Rescue Mission."

A VIRTUAL VISITATION FROM ST. NICHOLAS — This year's Covid-19 Pandemic could not keep the traditional visitation of our Holy Father Nicholas from reaching out especially to children. North Side Parishioner, Eliana Trapl, who had been battling with illness and continues to be treated by Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh, for more than a year has been quarantined by her doctor to remain at home. Through social media, Elaina, was able to greet St. Nicholas in the comfort of her home. Her parents are Leah and Damian Trapl. God Bless you, Eliana, and through the intercession of our Heavenly Patron, the Christ-lover of all children, may he ask Christ, our God, to bring you complete health!



CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED FORTHCOMING — We no sooner set the Church up for Christmas and it will be time to dismantle it for another year. Volunteers from both parishes are asked to gather on **Sunday, January 17, 2021 following the Divine Liturgy**. You are asked to give approximately an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider assisting us, especially if you weren't able to help in the set up.



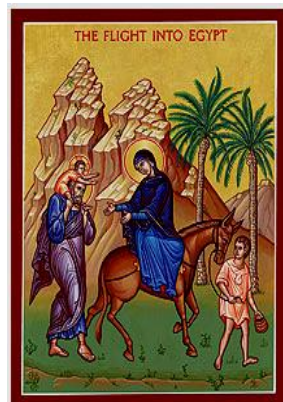
A SHORT NOTE FROM THE PASTOR — Dear Parish Family, this past year of 2020 has been quite a year. We pray that we may not have to experience its likes ever again. The reality of unexpected events in the New Year remains hidden from our eyes. As a parish that continues to be anchored in Christ, based upon the Rock of the Holy Apostle Peter, we can get through whatever lies ahead. Our Sovereign King, the Lord Jesus will be with us as He has promised. May we always adhere to His Commandments. Through prayer and the frequent worthy reception of the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) our witness will be strengthen our charity towards one another demonstrating that we are truly His disciples. Have a very Blessed and Happy New Year in 2021. — Fr. Firko.



Christmas Story Continues

The Flight into Egypt — GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23

As we commemorate the flight into Egypt as we did on the day following Christmas. The Magi from the East, having worshipped the Lord in Bethlehem, were directed to return to their home another way by command of an angel. Herod, that wicked king, planned to slaughter all the children in Bethlehem, but God saw Herod's intention and sent His angel to Joseph. The angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and commanded him to take the young Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt. Thus, the words of the prophet were fulfilled: *Behold, the Lord rides upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt* (Isaiah 19:1). In old Cairo today, the cave where the holy family lived can be seen. Likewise, in the village of Matarea near Cairo, the tree under which the Most-Holy Theotokos rested with the Lord Jesus, as well as a miraculous spring of water under this tree, are visible.



After having lived for several years in Egypt, the holy family returned to Palestine, again in response to a command of an angel of God. Thus, another prophecy was fulfilled: *Out of Egypt have I called my Son* (Hosea 11:1). Herod was dead and his wicked son Archelaus -a worthy successor of him in evil-sat on his bloodstained throne. Hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Jerusalem, Joseph returned to Galilee, to his town of Nazareth, where he settled in his own home. Herod's second son, Herod the Younger, who was somewhat less evil than his brother Archelaus, then reigned in Galilee.

Troparion of Christmas And the Ruthenian (Rusyn) Tradition

An aspect of the liturgical tradition that many present-day Byzantine Catholics have lost and no longer manifest occurs in the Christmas Troparion. Many of you should remember your parents and grandparents bowing slightly and making the sign of the Cross over themselves each time the **Christmas Troparion** was sung. A slight bow with a sign of the Cross should be made during the phrase: **"... have learned from a star to worship You (+) the Sun of Justice. On the word worship we are to bow and bless ourselves.** Let us revive the tradition of the founders and benefactors of our Holy Ghost Church and transmit to our children and others this unique manner of glorifying the newly-born Christ Child.



The Year of the Holy & Righteous Joseph

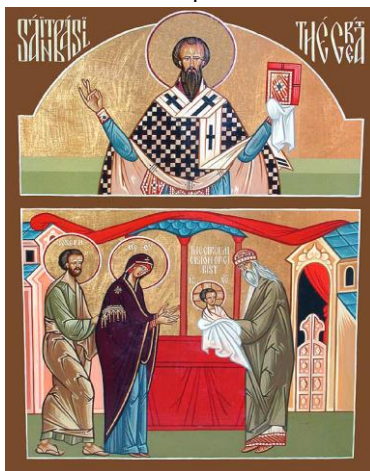
Vatican City, Dec 8, 2020 / 04:08 am (CNA) - Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church. The year begins Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021, according to a decree authorized by the pope.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 27 3rd Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen .
 December 31 Final Day of Christmas.
 January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 a.m.
 ***** Vigil of Theophany *****
 January 5 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours (MR); 1:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers & DL of St. Basil the Great.
 7:00 p.m. (MR) Divine Liturgy of Theophany — Holy Day of Obligation — Great Sanctification of Water.
 January 6 (MR) 9:00 a.m. Theophany Divine Liturgy; (NS) 6:00 p.m. Theophany Divine Liturgy.
 Great Sanctification of Water to take place after each Holy Day Divine Liturgies.
 January 10 ECF Program resumes for the second semester.
 January 17 MR & NS Dismantling of Christmas Decorations following the Divine Liturgy.

FEAST OF OUR LORD'S CIRCUMCISION & Feast of St. Basil the Great — January 1

The Mosaic Law prescribed that when a woman brought a male child into the world,



he had to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. Our Lord submitted to the circumcision prescribed by the Law on this day, which is the eighth day after His birth, and received, according to the announcement of the angel, the name which is above all names, "Jesus" or Savior. In celebrating the name day of the Lord today, we begin the New Year at the same time under the sign of the Nativity of Christ. Saint Basil the Great belonged, through his father also named Basil, to the province of Pontus, and through his Emmelia, to the province of Pontus, and through his mother Emmelia, to Cappadocia. He was born in Caesarea in

Cappadocia around 329-330. He studied in Caesarea, then in Constantinople under Libanius, and finally in Athens, where he became a close friend of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus. Shortly after his return to Caesarea which occurred about 356, he retired in solitude to the outskirts of Neocaesarea, where his mother and his sister Macrina already led the monastic life. It is at that time he composed his ascetical writings. He was ordained a priest by Eusebius, Archbishop of Caesarea, and at the death of the latter was elected in 370 to succeed him and rule the Church of Christ. He governed it for eight years, during which time he proved himself a witness of the truth in the face of heresy and full of courage before the threats of the Arian Emperor Valens. He died on January 1, in the year 379. The wisdom and the learning which fill his works, his Philokalia (extracts from the works of Origen), his Treatise on the Holy Spirit, his theological work against the Arian Eunomius, his ascetical writings, his monastic rules, his commentaries on Sacred Scripture, the panegyrics which he made of many saints, his correspondence, and finally the splendor and the force of his words, have won for him rightly the epitaphs of "Revealer of Heaven," and of the "Great."

General Announcements

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS — It's that time of year to think about filing our taxes. Our



Holy Ghost wishes to credit you whatever you contribute in 2020. *The final day to submit any contribution for this tax year is **Monday, December 28, 2020**.* Anything collected after that date will roll-over to the New Year 2021. For example, any of this year's Christmas Donations that arrive following this date will be accredited to 2021 for the following year's record. Please keep this in mind when you are preparing to file your income tax. Thank you for

remembering your Church throughout 2020! May God bless your sacrificial generosity so that our Holy Ghost Church may continue to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). — **END OF THE YEAR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS CAN NOW BE SENT VIA E-MAIL IN JANUARY! PLEASE REQUEST IT NOW BY SUBMITTING YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS!**

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER — Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic that closed all in-dining restaurants, the VAD has been cancelled. Hopefully, the new year will be more promising. Thanks to all who have volunteered your sacrificial time to the glory of God's Holy Church.



PASTOR PREPARES FOR HOUSE BLESSINGS THIS YEAR — Once again, Fr. Firko will make every effort to bless homes this year by requests. If you would like to have your home blessed following the Great Sanctification of Water on the Feast of Holy Theophany, January 6, please call the Church office. An article will appear in next week's S.O.T. Church Bulletin.

PASTOR EXTENDS GRATITUDE FOR CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE — Fr. Firko extends heart-felt thanks to all who remembered him by way of prayers, greeting cards, gifts, monetary gifts, food items and cooperation to ready the Church for this Christmas Season. A special thank you for all who attended the special Holy Day Services and the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. God bless all of you for your remembrances, kindnesses & thoughtfulness!!!



2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS STILL 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.



Christ is Born! – Merry Christmas!