

Parish Offerings – Sunday after Theophany — January 3, 2021

“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 (\$2,376) YP (\$7)	\$2,323.00
Holy Days (\$175) YP (\$2) Christmas 2020 (\$50)	227.00
Initial (\$165) YP (\$7)	172.00
Votive Candles	153.50
	\$2,875.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$823.00
Holy Days (\$85) Christmas 2020 (\$75) Christmas Décor 2020 (\$20) ...	180.00
Initial (\$55) Utilities (\$15) Improvement (\$45)	115.00
Votive Candles (\$58) Archdiocesan Charities (\$20) BCW (\$29)	107.50
	\$1,225.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (27); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (35); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (31)
 Theophany Eve (MR) Royal Hours (3); Theophany (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil (4)
 THEOPHANY VIGIL (MR) 7:00 p.m. (16);
 THEOPHANY — Jan, 6 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (22); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (13)



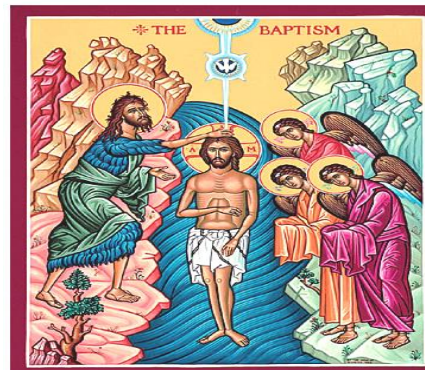
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT

**Sunday After Theophany — Postfestive of Theophany
 January 10, 2021**



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

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

Your old life is over
 a New Life has begun

DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 580-1545
 Nancde@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

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: Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive:c-rsmedia.org.

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!

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

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

Come Join Us

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

As the prophet foretold, a Great Light, Christ, has shown upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali. A people living in darkness have seen a Great Light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is a protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today (Ikos of Theophany Matins).

January 10, 2021

Seasonal Greeting (Jan 5-14):

Volume XI Number 2



Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!
Christos Krescajtsja! — Vo Jordani!



Sunday after the Enlightenment

Sunday Before Theophany — Prefestive of Theophany

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Sun, Jan 10 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh (birthday 1/12) Wife: Beverly & Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (birthday 1/12) Valeriano & Kallop Families

Venerable Father Theodosius

Mon, Jan 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Darko S. Gataric (birthday) Family

Tue, Jan 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh John & Kathy Kulka

Wed, Jan 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + Louis Janis Christine & Al Barnash

Final Day of the Theophany Feast

Thrs, Jan 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Lester G. Best (Memorial) Wife: Helen

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINANCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance for World Peace & vanquishing of Covid-19

Fri, Jan 15  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Maletz Son: Bob & Martha

Sat, Jan 16 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Dorothy (Kost) Hanasik Niece: Shirley (Tovcimak) Marks



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Zacchaeus

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Claudia C. Verner Husband: George
(4th ann of passing 1/16)

Sunday of Zacchaeus

The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN., Jan 17 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Peter A. Smoley Dgtr: Mary Ann
(48th ann of passing)

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

Jan 10 – MARY ANN SMOLEY; Jan 11 – Dennis Uram; Jan 12 – Mike Tomchak;
Jan 13 – Noreen Muha; Jan 14 – Diane Bell, James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole, Anna May Sejka; Jan 15 – William Boros; Jan 18 – Edward Conner.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, Helen Best, Richard Billy, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, 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. Did the early Church baptize infants? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: There is no doubt that the early Church practiced infant baptism. Christ himself proclaimed the suitability of infants for initiation into the kingdom (Luke 18:15-16), and Peter declared: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children" (Acts 2:38-39). The apostolic Church practiced the baptism of whole households, with no exceptions mentioned for small children (Acts 16:16, 33, 1 Cor. 1:16). There is no record anywhere in the Bible of a child of a Christian first having to reach the age of reason and then being baptized.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jan. 10 — Jan 16, 2021

(MR): In memory of Terreck & Mikovitz Families

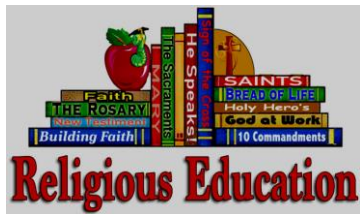
offered by Mildred (Mikovitz) Terrek

(NS): In memory of Michael P. Harsh (birthday 1/12)

(MR) Available for 2021 offered by Wife: Beverly & Family (NS) Available for 2021

General Announcements

ECF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM COMMENCES TODAY — The second semester for the *Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.) Program* commences today, **January 10, 2021** following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Parents, God-parents and Guardians, If your children are not enrolled in this program, please have them attend these religious education classes. Contact Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650. Please



be sure your children are enrolled and there each week. Our teachers sacrifice their time in preparing the lesson plan so that all children may benefit in religious education.

gCHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DISMANTLED NEXT SUNDAY — We no sooner decorate the Church for Christmas and it is time to dismantle it for another year. Volunteers from both parishes are asked to gather on **Sunday, January 17, 2021 following the Divine Liturgy for both parishes.** 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 will be able to depart. Please consider helping us, especially if you weren't able to be present to set up.



PLEASE WRITE AMOUNT ON YOUR ENVELOPES — Often times when our devoted Counters are dealing with several different envelopes (Sundays, Holy Days, Special Collections, etc.) it is possible that a donation slips by without a written amount indicated on the envelope. Would you please help us by placing the amount on your envelope?? Often we receive an envelope with nothing inside. **Be sure that your check is signed with the new year marked.** Place the contribution with all envelopes or at least the front portion of each envelope with check(s) attached. This helps our bookkeeping to credit your account properly.



The Effects of Holy and Sanctified Water

The Catechism teaches that the sacramentals, consequently holy water, operate principally by means of the Church's intercession (CCC 1667). The Church is the bride of the Divine Savior, and hence her prayers are always pleasing to God. When the Church prays, the divine bridegroom prays with her, and for this reason her prayer is powerful with God. Thus, it may happen that a lukewarm Christian may derive great benefit from the use of holy water. The reason for this is that God looks not on the unworthiness of mankind but rather on the prayer of the Church, so pleasing to Him. Especially, though, will the loyal children of the Church, who seek to coordinate their ideas to those of the divine Savior and of the Church, participate in the blissful effects of holy water. **1. Use holy water to drive away the devil; 2. Use holy water to overcome temptations; 3. You can use holy water to drive away sickness – and future illness too; 4. Holy water cleanses soul from venial sins and temporal punishments; 5. Take advantage of those sanctifying effects found with holy water; and 6. Use holy water for the comfort and release of the holy souls in Purgatory (a state of being purified).**

Please remember to pick up your envelopes and Calendar located in the Church basement.

SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT



The Holy Theophany Feast



GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17

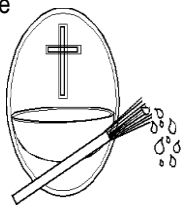
We are currently in the postfestive period of Holy Theophany, and it is designated to be a continuation of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This Sunday is referred to as the "Sunday after the Enlightenment." This designation comes from the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the "Enlightenment." It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus' own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared for their initiation and admission into the Church received baptism, chrismation and eucharist on that day. Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one's own baptism, and how its relevance and personal effect have called us to be God's new chosen people.

What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with Jesus' Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us? Take this Sunday's celebration to heart and recommit yourself to Christ since He promises eternal life and great mercy.



Each House Should be blessed Annually

By sanctifying our home, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls become marred by sin, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. We cleanse our souls of serious sin at least once a year through the Paschal (Easter) Duty and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water. God's blessings and protection are invoked by the priest on it and its inhabitants. As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office. — As the priest enters the house, he greets the family by saying: **Peace be to this house!** The response is: **And to all who dwell therein.** In a main room or at the icon corner place a candle, cross and/or icon on a clean linen cloth. • Have a small container of holy water that was blessed on the feast of Theophany. • Have all radios, stereos, televisions, etc., turned off for the blessing. • Please have all pets confined or restrained. • If you have any religious articles you wish to be blessed, please place them on the table by the holy water. • When the priest arrives have everyone present assemble in the prepared place. • Sing the festal troparion and as much of the ritual as possible. In some places the cantor accompanies the priest, in others the priest goes alone. Therefore, participation is important. • By custom, in some places, the youngest member of the family, carrying a candle, leads the priest through the house for the blessing. The faithful remain quiet until the priest returns.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 10 ECF Program resumes for the second semester.
January 17 MR & NS Dismantling of Christmas Decorations following the Divine Liturgy
January 18-25 Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
January 22 48th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion.
January 29 Vigil of the Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs: (NS); 6:00 p.m..
January 30 Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs (MR) 9:00 a.m.
February 2 Encounter of the Lord D.L. w/Sanctification of Candles (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS). 6:00 p.m.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

MARTYRED MONKS AT SINAI & RAITHO MONASTERIES — January 14

The Holy Monastic Fathers Slain at Sinai and Raitho. There were two occasions when the monks and hermits were murdered by the barbarians. The first



took place in the fourth century when forty Fathers were killed at Mt. Sinai, and thirty-nine were slain at Raitho on the same day. Mount Sinai, where the Ten Commandments had been given to Moses, was also the site of another miracle. Ammonios, an Egyptian monk, witnessed the murder of the forty holy Fathers at Sinai. He tells of how the Saracens attacked the monastery and would have killed them all, if God had not intervened.

A fire appeared on the summit of the peak, and the whole mountain smoked. The barbarians were terrified, and fled, while the surviving monks thanked God for sparing them. That day, the Blemmyes (an Arab tribe) killed thirty-nine Fathers at Raitho (on the shores of the Red Sea). Hegumen Paul of Raitho exhorted his monks to endure their suffering with courage and a pure heart. The second massacres occurred nearly a hundred years later, and was also recorded by an eyewitness who miraculously escaped: St Nilus the Faster (November 12). The Arabs permitted some of the monks run for their lives. They crossed the valley and climbed up a mountain. From this vantage point, they saw the bedouin kill the monks and ransack their cells. The Sinai and Raitho ascetics lived a particularly strict life: they spent the whole week at prayer in their cells. On Saturday they gathered for the all-night Vigil, and on Sunday they received the Holy Mysteries. Their only food was dates and water. Many of the ascetics of the desert were glorified by the gift of wonderworking: the Elders Moses, Joseph and others. Mentioned in the service to these monastic Fathers are: Isaiah, Sava, Moses and his disciple Moses, Jeremiah, Paul, Adam, Sergius, Domnus, Proclus, Hypatius, Isaac, Macarius, Mark, Benjamin, Eusebius and Elias.

General Announcements

WHY YOUR HOME SHOULD BE BLESSED EACH YEAR — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our home, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER for the newly sanctified water. Each home should have newly sanctified water. Last year's holy water is to be discarded reverently in a place that is not trampled upon. **DO NOT pour it down the drain.** If you find it difficult to discard bring it to the Church. The Northside has a holy sink that drains into the ground beneath the church. You are encouraged to use the newly sanctified water throughout the New Year by anointing yourself with it and even drinking it.



SEASONAL GREETING UNTIL THURSDAY — During this festive celebration of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism, the greeting that we greet each other with is **CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! (CHRISTOS KRESCAJETSJAI).** The response is **IN THE JORDAN (VO JORDANI!)** Let us glorify the Lord this festive season by greeting and responding with this traditional custom celebrating the Lord's presence in our midst!

ARCHIEPARCHIAL NEWSPAPER CONTINUES SAME RATE — For those of you who are continuing to subscribe to *THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD*, be submit the total annual subscription price of \$14.00 in the special contribution envelope. It is a great source of news throughout our Archeparchy, and is well worth the investment. If you are a first time subscriber please write **FIRST TIME** on the envelope so that the office can forward your name and have it placed on our parochial list.



YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS — Just a reminder that all 2020 Contribution envelopes that are currently accepted will be credited to your 2021 individual contribution statement for the end of this new year, **THE 2020 INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS ARE NOW CLOSED AND CAN NOW BE REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL. THIS METHOD IS MUCH MORE EFFICIENT AND CAN BE QUICKLY EXPEDITED TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE REQUEST YOUR 2020 STATEMENT NOW BY SUBMITTING YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS TO: SECRETARY225@VERIZON.NET. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL, WE CAN SEND YOU THE STATEMENT THE TRADITIONAL WAY.**