

Parish Offerings – Sunday after Theophany — January 10, 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 (\$1,722) YP (\$11)	\$1,733.00
Holy Days (\$483) Christmas 2020 (\$100) Christmas Décor 2020 (\$10)	593.00
Special Donation (In memory of + Michael Harsh)	37.00
Votive Candles (\$108.75) BCW (\$252) Initial (\$120) YP (\$3)	483.75
	<hr/>
	\$2,846.75

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$932.26
Holy Days (\$73) Christmas 2020 (\$145)	218.00
Initial (\$5) Utilities (\$22) Improvement (\$3.37)	30.37
Votive Candles (\$67.70) BCW (\$28)	95.70
	<hr/>
	\$1,276.33

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (25);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (49); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)



“We’re always getting him out of a tree. We should’ve called him Zacchaeus.”

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

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

**The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday — The Year of St. Joseph
 January 17, 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

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

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).

January 17, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 3

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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
Sunday of Zacchaeus			
The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday — Pro-Life Sunday			
SUN., Jan 17	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Peter A. Smoley (48 th ann of passing)	Dgtr: Mary Ann
Federal Holiday — Martin Luther King, Jr. — No U.S. Postal Mail			
Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity			
Mon, Jan 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Kurtanich (40 th day of passing 1/17)	Niece: Elaine Kurtanich
Tue, Jan 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & God's Blessings for: Fr. John Mina	Singing Revilak Family
Commemorating Our Venerable Father Euthymius the Great			
The 2021 Presidential Inauguration			
Wed, Jan 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margaret "Peg" Krulac	Nancy & + Mark Cifrulak
Thrs, Jan 21	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Julia Wovchko (birthday)	Nephew: John Wovchko
48th anniversary of Roe v. Wade Supreme Court infamous decision legalizing abortion			
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance for World Peace & vanquishing of Covid-19			
Fri, Jan 22	8:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	Overturn Roe v. Wade
Sat, Jan 23	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Michael Sotak, Jr. (8 th ann of passing 1/1)	Wife: Jane

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Debra Ann Palahunik (4 th ann of passing 1/23)	George, Wilma & Wendy Dankovchik

Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN., Jan 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Dorothy (Kost) Hanasik Niece: Shirley Marks

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 18 – Michael Ferrell; Jan 19 – Barbara Lutz; Jan 21 – Nicholas Nazak I, KIRK LATTA; Jan 23 – Dean Poloka, Lydia Sell.

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, 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 does the Lord's Prayer ask God not to lead us into temptation? Surely God wouldn't lead us into temptation, by his very nature; He doesn't want us to be tempted. So why do we have to ask? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** The Greek used here means both trials that test us and temptation in the sense of allurements... The Epistle of James explicitly rejects that God lures us into sin (James 1:13). Therefore, a trial/testing is the most likely emphasis in this passage. In this prayer, we are essentially praying the same prayer as Jesus when he said, "If possible let this cup pass from me" (Matt. 26:39). For this reason, some translations of the Lord's Prayer use "do not subject us not to the final test" or "do not bring us to the time of trial." However, in English, traditionally we have used the "lead us not into temptation" translation. In this sense, it is meant that being subjected to a testing/trial of our faith could tempt us to fall away from the Faith. It is an acknowledgment of our weakness and our need for courage and strength from God.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jan. 17 — Jan 23, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Claudia C. Verner** (4th ann of passing 1/16)
offered by Husband: George

(NS): **In memory of Dorothy (Kost) Hanasik**
(MR) Available for 2021 offered by Niece: Shirley Marks (NS) Available for 2021



General Announcements

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DISMANTLED TODAY — 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 **following today's Divine Liturgy at both parishes**. You are asked to give approximately an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. We ask that a few men assist us with the heavy items. 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.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM THE INTERCHURCH FOOD BANK FORM NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE BY BOTH PARISHES — *“Thank you so much for your recent donation to the Interchurch Food Bank.*

Perfect timing for the Christmas Holidays and a big variety of food.” Sincerely, Donna Pollard (618 Russellwood, McKees Rocks).

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.



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

Today's Gospel Meditation

The 1st of Five Sundays Prior to The Great Fast

The **DESIRE** to Follow Jesus (Luke 19: 1-10)

Today commences the first of five Sundays in preparation to the Lenten Season which is still one month away. The theme of “Repentance” is set before us and continues for two forthcoming Sundays. Today lesson is the first Pregreatfast **Sunday of Zacchaeus**. His name means PURE or JUSTIFIED. HE was the wealthy man of Jerusalem who gathered revenue for the Roman government, but who became a disciple of Christ (Luke 19:1-10). A "chief publican," Zacchaeus might have been of a higher grade than Matthew. Although not one of Christ's expected converts, Zacchaeus had heard much about Christ and **DESIRED** to see Him for himself. When ultimately Christ came his way there were two obstacles in his



way—the crowd, and his own short stature. But he quickly overcame both hindrances. Our Lord called Zacchaeus down and invited Himself to his house. Zacchaeus was a sinner and Christ saved him. Quickly Zacchaeus revealed the depth of his **DESIRE** and surrendered to his newly found Master. There came an immediate and generous restitution. His **DESIRE** for Jesus teaches us that through Repentance we take our first serious step to surrender ourselves to Him and follow it by good deeds.

Pope Francis Speaks — On the Sacraments

This is an Encore Excerpt delivered on Jan. 29, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters — In our catechesis on the seven sacraments, we now reflect on **Confirmation (Chrismation)**, which, together with Baptism and the Eucharist, is one of the sacraments of Christian initiation. These sacraments make us sharers in the death and resurrection of Jesus and living members of his body, the Church. In Confirmation, through the sacramental sign of anointing with sacred chrism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in order to be more closely conformed to Christ, God's “anointed one”. We are also strengthened – “confirmed” – in the grace of our Baptism and in our mission of bearing daily witness to Christ and his love. The working of the Holy Spirit in our lives is reflected in the seven spiritual gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. Today let us thank the Lord for the grace of our Confirmation and ask that, filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, we may always mirror Christ's presence in our relations with others, our openness to those in need, and our living witness to the Gospel message of joy and peace.



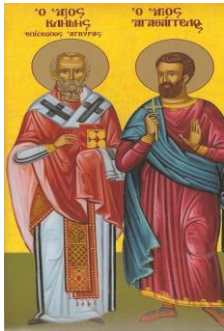
Calendar of Upcoming Events

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..
Traditionally, Simple Abstinence is abrogated on Friday following the week of the Publican & Pharisee.
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

BISHOP-MARTYR CLEMENT OF ANCYRA, & MARTYR AGATHANGELUS — January 23

Clement was born in the Galatian city of Ancyra in the year 258, of a pagan father and a Christian mother. He lost his father when he was an infant, and his mother when he was twelve. She predicted a martyr's death for him because of his belief in Christ. A woman named Sophia adopted him and raised him in the fear of God. During a terrible famine in Galatia several pagans turned out their own children, not having the means to feed them. Sophia took in these unfortunates, and fed and clothed them. Saint Clement assisted her in this. He taught the children and prepared them for Baptism. Many of them died as martyrs for Christ. Saint Clement was ordained a reader, and later a sub-deacon & deacon. When he was eighteen he was ordained to the holy priesthood, and at age twenty he was consecrated Bishop of Ancyra. Soon afterwards the persecution against Christians under Diocletian (284-305) broke out. Bishop Clement was denounced as a Christian and arrested. Dometian, the governor of Galatia, tried to



make the saint worship the pagan gods, but Saint Clement firmly confessed his faith and valiantly withstood all the tortures. They suspended him on a tree, and raked his body with sharp iron instruments so that his entrails could be seen. They smashed his mouth with stones, and they turned him on a wheel and burned him over a low fire. The Lord preserved His sufferer and healed his lacerated body. Then Dometian sent the saint to Rome to the emperor Diocletian himself, with a report that Bishop Clement had been fiercely tortured, but had proven unyielding. Diocletian, seeing the martyr completely healthy, did not believe the report and subjected him to even crueler tortures, and then had him locked up in prison. Many of the pagans, seeing the bravery of the saint and the miraculous healing of his wounds, believed in Christ. People flocked to Saint Clement in prison for guidance, healing and Baptism, so that the prison was literally transformed into a church. When word of this reached the emperor, many of these new Christians were executed. Diocletian, struck by the amazing endurance of Saint Clement, sent him to Nicomedia to his co-emperor Maximian. On the ship, the saint was joined by his disciple Agathangelus, who had avoided being executed with the other confessors, and who now wanted to suffer and die for Christ with Bishop Clement. The emperor Maximian in turn sent Saints Clement and Agathangelus to the governor Agrippina, who subjected them to such inhuman torments, that even the pagan on-lookers felt pity for the martyrs and they began to pelt the torturers with stones. **Saint Agathangelus was beheaded with the sword on November 5.** The Christians of Ancyra freed Saint Clement from prison and took him to a cave church. There, after celebrating Liturgy, the saint announced to the faithful the impending end of the persecution and his own martyrdom. **On January 23, the holy hierarch was killed by soldiers from the city, who stormed the church. The saint was beheaded as he stood before the altar and offered the Bloodless Sacrifice.** Two deacons, Christopher and Chariton, were beheaded with him, but no one else was harmed.

General Announcements

PASTOR CONTINUES HOUSE BLESSINGS THIS WEEK — It is so important to have your house blessed EVERY year. To have God's blessing renewed annually keeps it away from evil influence, cleanses it from the sin committed in it, and imparts God's protection upon it. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office and set up an appointment. Please read the article "In preparation for a house blessing" published in last week's S.O.T. available in the vestibule.



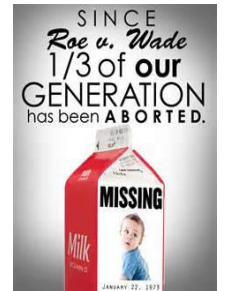
EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY — Last Saturday began the *Annual Eight Days of Prayer* for the intention of Christian Unity. Each year from January 18-25,



Christians unite to pray in the same sentiments that Jesus prayed to the Father: "That all may be one ... so that the world may believe." (John 17:21). This year's theme is: "**Abide in my love You shall bear much fruit**" (John 15:1-17) As Catholics who have the fullness of the faith, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Pray each day: "**O Almighty and Merciful God, You willed that**

the different nations should become one people through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. In this may Your name be glorified Father, Son (+), and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen."

INFAMOUS ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VS. WADE — Friday, January 22, marks the 48th anniversary of the shameful 1973 infamous Supreme Court Decision of *ROE VS. WADE* which legalized abortion. As a Pro-Life Parish, we must continue our prayers of supplication and sacrificial efforts to have this horrific law overturned. As we commemorate this Pro-Life Weekend, may we join other Prolifers as the outspoken voices for our silent brothers and sisters conceived awaiting birth. Prayer: **O Lord, send down Your Holy Spirit and protect all children, born and unborn. Penetrate the hearts of all pregnant women and fill them with Your love as well as love for their precious unborn babies. May all victims of abortion find healing in You. Lord, enlighten all those who do not know the truth. Soften the hearts of the abortionists, and those who use their influence and power to bring about this end. For You are the Source of life, mercy and forgiveness and we render glory to You, Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.**



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.

