

## Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Man Born Blind — May 9, 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 (\$2,177.75) YP (\$11)	\$2,188.75
Holy Days	40.00
Seminary	185.00
Votive Candles	90.50
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	\$2,504.25

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$448.00
Pentecost (\$20) Holy Days (\$35)	55.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvement (\$15) Seminary (\$10)	35.00
Votive Candles	88.00

## Church Attendance Last Week \$626.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (36)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (50); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (33)

Ascension — Wed. (MR) 7:00 p.m. (21); Thrs. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (21); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (19)



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

**HALFWAY**  
THROUGH MAY!  
SIGH

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## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## SUNDAY OF 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUMENCIL COUNCIL

### Postfestive of the Ascension — May 16, 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](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: 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 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

Let us honor today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, namely the God-mantled Fathers who speaking of divine things sang in the midst of the Church a hymn in unison, teaching that the Trinity is one, not differing in substance or Godhead, refuting Arius and defending the true faith. They always interceded with the Lord to have mercy on our souls (Great Vespers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council Fathers)

May 16, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 20



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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### SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUM. COUNCIL Postfestive of the Ascension — 7th Paschal Sunday

SUN., May 16	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margo Family	Margaret & James Lautenschlager
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Robert M. Smoley (43 <sup>rd</sup> ann of passing 5/14)	Sister: Mary Ann

Mon, May 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Maletz	Son: Bob & Martha
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Tues, May 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula (ordination 5/14)	Zula Family
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Wed, May 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Edward Zotyak (birthday)	Wife: Florence
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Thrs, May 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Thanksgiving (44 <sup>th</sup> ann. of Priestly Ordination 5/22)	Fr. Firko
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### Final Day of the Ascension Feast

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

Fri, May 21	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Basil P. Gramata	Wife: Eleanor & Son: George
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6:00 p.m. (MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

### Fifth & Final Universal All Souls Saturday Vigil

\*\*\* 6:00 p.m. (NS) All Souls w/reading of Hramoty

### FIFTH & FINAL UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat., May 22 \*\*\* 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/reading of Hramoty



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Rose A. Debranski (birthday 5/28) Dgtr: Nancy

## SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

### Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast

SUN., May 23	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Eleanor Kulka	Children: Kathy & John.
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(8<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/26)

	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna Spontak	Son: Bob & Joyce
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(17<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/22)

## 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

May 16 – NATHANIEL HELMS, Loretta Keller; May 17 – John Oslick, Anita Sidun; May 20 – Alexis Jean Jumba; May 22 — Theresa Hrishenko, John Kutchmark, Jr.; Ray Rippole, Emilia Wenger.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Peggi Lucas, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Muha, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier.

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.

VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Helen Best, Marge Cifrutlak.

UPMC PRESBYTERIAN (3471 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213): GEORGE HUDANICK, SR.

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

Q. What does "honor your father and your mother" mean? If the parents are abusive, does this change anything? A. Catholic Apologist, Jim Blackburn.: St. Paul clarifies the fourth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you" (Ex. 20:12), in his letter to the Ephesians: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right (Eph. 6:1, emphasis added). The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) explains: As long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all that they ask of him when it is for his good or that of the family. . . But if a child is convinced in conscience that it would be morally wrong to obey a particular order, he must not do so ... Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so respect, which is always owed to them. (CCC 2217)

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 16 — May 22, 2021

(MR): In Thanksgiving (69<sup>th</sup> wed. ann. 5/17)

offered by Dolores & Ted Babin

(NS): In Thanksgiving

(MR) None available 2021

offered by the Intention of the Giver

(NS) None available 2021

# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONOR CONTINUES TO ADORN OUR BLESSED MOTHER ICON** — An anonymous source continues to donate beautiful and colorful flowers to be placed before the Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis. May is the month of the Holy Virgin Mary. We thank whoever you are, and we commend you and your intentions before the feet of the Holy Theotokos. Let us remember that each of us can place a spiritual bouquet before her on all Fridays this month, as we pray the Holy Rosary commencing at 6:00 p.m.



## North Side



**M/M HARPER UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY** — A Nuptial Divine Liturgy and Wedding Ceremony @ 1:00 p.m. was celebrated Saturday, May 8, 2021 for **Alan John Harper (Holy Ghost Church)** and **Kayla Marie Henderson (Immaculate Conception Church, Irwin)**. The couple will reside in Pittsburgh, and will continue to members of our Church. Our parish family extends to Alan & Kayla it's most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes as they begin their new life together as husband and wife. May God grant them peace, health and salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner, **Mary Ann (Vereb) Conti, 80**, who passed away at her Glenshaw home located on Dorseyville Road, on Saturday morning, May 8, 2021. She was assisted by her daughter, Helen Cholicki. The Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home, Blawnox, PA, handled the arrangements. A private viewing and prayer service was offered on Ascension Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Funeral Home. Interment was in private. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathy to the Conti-Vereb Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant MaryAnn, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!



**THE "GLORIFIED-CROSS" CONTINUES TO BE DISPLAYED UNTIL NEXT SUNDAY** — Throughout the entire Paschal Period, our Byzantine Catholic Church glorifies the triumphant Cross of Christ. So until Pentecost Sunday all of our Byzantine Crosses (even the ones you wear) should be turned in the reversed manner. Thus, the bottom bar should look as though it's backwards!



# THE SEVENTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

## Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

### The Core of Our Common Faith *(first read John 17: 1-13)*

Today, we are commemorating the Fathers of The First Council of Nicea held in the year 325 AD. It is the first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. *Most significantly, it resulted in the first, extra-biblical, uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.* With the creation of the creed, a precedent was established for subsequent local and regional councils of Bishops (Synods) to create statements of belief and canons of the true faith — the intent being to define unity of essential beliefs for the whole of Christendom. The council did not create the doctrine of the deity of Christ but it did

### The Nicene Creed



On this day in 325 the Council of Nicea ended with the adoption of the Nicene Creed establishing the set of Biblical doctrines agreed upon by church leaders representing congregations throughout Europe, Africa and Asia.

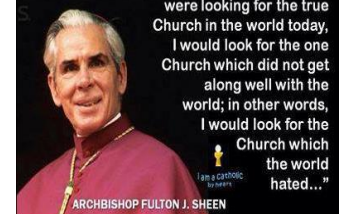
settle, to some degree, the debate within the Early Christian communities regarding the divinity of Christ. This idea of the divinity of Christ, along with the idea of Christ as a messenger from God (The Father), had long existed in various parts of the Roman Empire. The divinity of Christ had also been widely endorsed by the Christian community in the otherwise pagan city of Rome. The council affirmed and defined what it believed to be the teachings of the Apostles regarding who Christ is: that Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father. Derived from Greek "ecumenical" meaning "worldwide or universal." One purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements arising from within the Church of Alexandria over the nature of the Son in relationship to the Father. Saints Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius claimed that Christ is God and the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arianism comes, denied this claim. The council decided against the Arians overwhelmingly. Of the estimated 318 attendees, all but two agreed to sign the creed and these two, along with Arius, were banished to Illyria. Another result of the council was an agreement on when to celebrate Easter, the most important feast of the ecclesiastical calendar.

## Why we need the Catholic Church – In a Nutshell

1. We are made in God's image and likeness, meant for a deep, loving relationship with him. (Genesis 1:27); 2. Due to sin, we have broken this friendship with God. (Romans 6:23); 3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, became man, died on the cross, and rose from the grave for our salvation. (Philippians 2:7-10); 4. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and through Jesus our relationship with God is restored. (Ephesians 2:8); 5. Through the Catholic Church which Jesus established while on earth, we have access to grace by Baptism and are nourished by the Eucharist and other sacraments. (Matthew 16:18-19); 6. Through these sacraments, the Holy Spirit changes us, perfects us, fulfills our every desire, ultimately bringing us to eternal beatitude in heaven. (Matthew 5:48).

### "If I Were Not A Catholic ..."

"If I were not a Catholic, and were looking for the true Church in the world today, I would look for the one Church which did not get along well with the world; in other words, I would look for the Church which the world hated..."



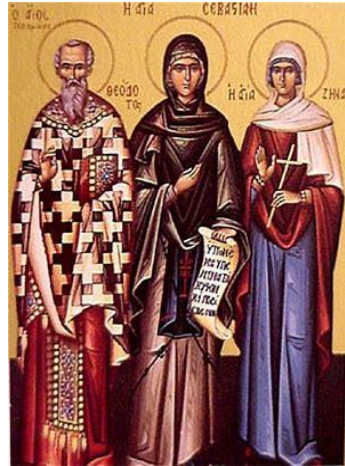
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 21 .....	5 <sup>th</sup> & Final Universal All Souls Vigil (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 22 .....	5 <sup>th</sup> & Final Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
May 23 .....	Pentecost Sunday — Patron of our two Parishes.
May 24 ...	Pentecost Monday — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 25 .....	Clergy Days at the Cathedral.
May 30 .....	Sunday of All Saints — Final Day for fulfilling Easter (Paschal) Duty.

## Saints of the Week — May 18

### The Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra & Companions

The Holy Martyr Theodotus and the Holy Seven Virgins Tecusa, Phaine, Claudia, Matrona, Julia, Alexandra and Euphrasia lived during the second half of the third century in the city of Ancyra, Galatia, and died as martyrs for Christ at the beginning of the fourth century. Saint Theodotus was an innkeeper and was married. Theoteknos, prefect of Ancyra, issued a proclamation informing Christians that they were obliged to offer sacrifice to idols, and if they refused, they would be tortured and killed. Pagans would deliver Christians over to torture, and then divide up their property. Theodotus was not afraid to bury the remains of holy martyrs, either carrying them off secretly or ransoming them from the soldiers. When the Christian churches at Ancyra were destroyed and closed, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in his inn. Knowing that martyrdom awaited him, Saint Theodotus predicted that soon they would bring him the relics of martyrs. At this



time, seven holy virgins died for Christ. The eldest, Saint Tecusa, was the aunt of Saint Theodotus. The holy virgins Tecusa, Phaine, Claudia, Matrona, Julia, Alexandra and Euphrasia had dedicated themselves to God from their youth, living in constant prayer, fasting, temperance and good deeds. All of them had attained to an advanced age. Brought to trial as Christians, the holy virgins bravely confessed their faith in Christ before Theoteknos and were given over to torture, yet remained steadfast. The prefect then gave them to shameless youths for defilement. The holy virgins prayed intensely, asking help from God. Saint Tecusa fell down at the feet of a youth, and pushing back her veil she showed him her grey hair. The young men were startled, and ran off weeping. The prefect then ordered that the saints take part in offering sacrifice to the idols, but again the holy virgins refused. For this they were sentenced to death. A heavy stone was tied to the legs of each, and all seven of the holy virgins were drowned in a lake. On the following night Saint Tecusa appeared in a dream to Saint Theodotus, asking him to take her body and give it Christian burial. Saint Theodotus, taking with him his friend Polychronius and several other Christians, went to the lake. It was dark, and a torch illumined their way. The holy martyr Sosander appeared in front of the guard who was posted by the pagans at the shore of the lake. The frightened guard ran off in terror. The account of the life and martyrdom of Saint Theodotus and the suffering of the holy virgins was compiled by Nilus, a contemporary and companion of Saint Theodotus. Nilus lived in the city of Ancyra during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian, and witnessed the saint's death. Saint Theodotus is also commemorated on June 7.

## General Announcements

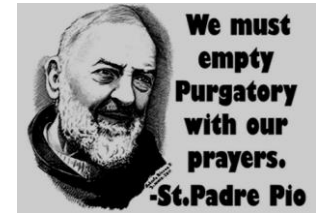
**ATTENTION E.C.F. TEACHERS & GRADUATES: REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED —** Our



Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and College/University Graduates on the occasion of our Patronal Feast, **May 23, 2021**. All registered MR & NS graduates will receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All E.C.F. Teachers will be our guests along with the Graduates for brunch. You must phone the church office and inform us if you will be present at the **Golden**

**Corral, Robinson Township** following @ 2:00 p.m. **Deadline to register is tomorrow at 12:00 noon May 17 @ (412) 771-3324.**

**FINAL ALL SOULS' COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK —** The 5<sup>th</sup> and Final All Souls commemoration will be offered this coming **Friday, May 21 (NS); and Saturday, May 22 (MR)**. This final Eucharistic Service in behalf of all Souls comes a day prior to *The Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, also known as Pentecost*. Our prayer is directed to God the Holy Spirit so as to grant eternal rest and a blessed repose to All Souls, especially the names submitted earlier. It is still not too late to submit your beloveds' names using the envelope in your contribution box. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat! Come & pray for their repose!



**GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING FORTHCOMING —** The first



quarter meeting will be **VIRTUAL on Sunday, June 6, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are expected to participate by dialing 1 (605) 472-5351. Then type in the Access Code: 451303#. You may direct your questions and/or concerns to Steve Puluka @ (412) 897-4650.

**2 MORE WEEKS TO ATTEND TO YOUR EASTER DUTY PRECEPT —** All Christian Faithful are **OBLIGED (MANDATED)** to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death **AND** during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). In regards to the latter, this is traditionally known as the **EASTER DUTY**. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary before receiving Holy Communion. Serious Sins are those fractures especially against the Ten Commandments and omissions of the 6 Precepts of the Church, but not limited to them. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (May 30)** is the final day to take care of this important spiritual matter without incurring serious (mortal) sin of omission. Use the special examination of conscience forms located in the vestibule and narthex of the Church to assist you in making a good confession of sins.

**Don't Forget to Wear GREEN Next Weekend — Pentecost Sunday**  
**OUR PATRONAL FEAST!**