

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday after Pentecost — June 20, 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 (\$1,653) YP (\$7)	\$1,660.00
Pentecost (\$6) Holy Days (\$50)	56.00
Seminary	10.00
Votive Candles	109.75
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	\$1,835.75

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$663.00
Holy Days	25.00
Votive Candles	59.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$747.00

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)

Nativity of St. John the Baptist — Thrs. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (14); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (12)



ΙΧΘΥΣ (ich-thys)
 Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, Θεοῦ Υἱός, Σωτήρ
 (I-sous Chri-stos, The-ou Yi-os, So-ter)

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

4th & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast — June 27, 2021



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: 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!

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

I say unto you that you are Peter, the Rock, and upon this Rock I will build my Church, and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it.
 - Matthew 16:18

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

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

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).

Jun 27, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 26



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

5th Sunday after Pentecost

4th & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast

SUN., Jun 27 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Bednar Rippole Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + William C. Poloka (40th day of passing 6/24) Anonymous

Final Day of the Petrine Fast

Mon, Jun 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William Gogal (wed. ann) Anonymous

Great Vespers w/ Vigil Divine Liturgy of the Feasts of Saints Peter & Paul

7:00 p.m. (MR) + Helen (Kuruc) Long (1st ann of passing) Anonymous

Feast of the Holy Prime Apostles Peter and Paul

TUE JUN 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + George Hudanick, Sr. Anonymous

Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles

Wed, Jun 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Gramata (23rd ann of pass 6/29) Eleanor & George

Thrs, Jul 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Sendro (7th ann of passing) Wife: Janet & Family

First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance

Fri, Jul 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Muska Mike & Michael Muska

First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sat, Jul 3 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Michele J. (Terrek) Chiavetta Hilary Zubritzky

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Annual Independence Weekend — 4th of July

SUN., Jul 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna May Sejka Holy Ghost Pirohi Workers
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Daniel J. Galida (birthday 7/5) Sister: Kathy Mullen

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

Jun 29 – Patricia Kovacs; Jun 30 – Olivia Pleasure, Nicholas Stilwell; Jul 1 – PAUL MITRO; Jul 2 – Joseph Mitro.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, Debra Charochak, Florence Charochak, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh., Kathe Kress, BETTY LORINC, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Muha, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Mildred Terrek, 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 Cifrulak.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. If prayer is supposed to be for good, why do priests use it as punishment (or penance) after confession? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: The prayers of penance are not punishment. Although our sins are forgiven by God through the sacrament, the effects of our sin are still present in the world. The prayers are given for our penance not as punishment but as an attempt on our part to make up for the effects of our sins. Then the priest imposes an act of penance or satisfaction on the penitent; this should serve not only to make up for the past but also to help him to begin a new life and provide him with an antidote to weakness. As far as possible, the penance should correspond to the seriousness and nature of the sins. This act of penance may suitably take the form of prayer, self-denial, and especially service of one's neighbor and works of mercy. These will underline the fact that sin and its forgiveness have a social aspect.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jun 27 — Jul 3, 2021

(MR): In memory of Michael Sendro (7th ann of passing 7/1)

offered by Wife: Janet & Family

(NS): In memory of Mary Agnes Kress

(MR) None available 2021

offered by Son: William & Kathryn

(NS) None available 2021

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY — A Nuptial Ceremony and Wedding Divine Liturgy was celebrated Friday afternoon, June 30, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at (MR) Holy Ghost Church for **Daniel William Colbert (RC) and Anna Elizabeth Keller (BC)** Our parish family extends to Dan & Anna it's most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes as they begin their new life together as husband and wife. The couple will remain parishioners here at Holy Ghost Church. Their honeymoon will take place at a later date. .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 sudden passing of parishioner, **Marcia Ann Babin, 75**, of Ross Township on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks, handled the arrangements. She is survived by her husband, Will, and daughter, Jennifer (Steve) Weidenhof and parishioners Ted and Dolores Babin, and several family members., Prayers were offered at the funeral home on Friday, June 18. Interment will be private. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to Will & Jennifer and the Family members. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Marcia Ann, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!



RENOVATION CONTINUES ON WASHROOM PROJECT — Renovations continued for both the School Gym and Church Basement Washrooms. Century Interiors, Inc of the North Hills was the only bidder that exhibited interest. Please be reminded that only the handicap washroom will be available as work is in progress. Once again, we are grateful to the Pirohi Project who worked diligently to see this renovation work was made possible.

SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC/FAC MEETING — At PAC/FAC Meeting, **June 22, 2021**, discussion on the following topics were presented (1) The beginning of the four washroom projects at the Gym and Church Basement; (2) Sealing of the Church Parking lot. This past winter season took a toll on some areas of the lot with cracking of the black-top. It was advised that careful watch that damage does not advance so as to incur expensive repair; and (3) Discounted tickets to Kennywood and other theme parks are available at substantial savings only on line: gcuusa.com. The ticket is good for one admission until Sept. 19, 2021. Byzantine Catholic Day has once again been suspended due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.



North Side

No Particular Announcements this Week

SISTERS OF ST. BASIL ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR THE 87TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE — The Sisters of St. Basil the Great are pleased to announce that on **Sunday, September 5, 2021**, the 87th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be held at Mount St. Macrina. With the theme, "*Mother of Perpetual Help, Our Gentle Protectress*", the Pilgrimage will be an in-person event and will also be streamed live. Weather permitting, liturgical services will be broadcast at www.sistersofstbasil.org. Although they are very happy to warmly welcome Pilgrims to the grounds of Mt. St. Macrina this year, they encourage those with compromised health conditions, unvaccinated Pilgrims, or those who would need to travel great distances to pray with them virtually.

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Demons in today's Holy Gospel — Read Matthew 8:28-9:1

St. John Chrysostom says about this account, "*Look at what the demons did when they were cast out of the men.*" They entered into the swine, and caused the swine to run violently



down to their own death. St. John says that is what the demons want to do to each one of us. They want to cause us to run violently down to our death. He says, "*Do not be deceived. You have many foes. Just because you can't see them with your natural eyes does not mean they are not there. Just because you are not aware of them every second of every day does not mean they do not follow you around, because they do. They huddle around you.*" What they seek is to enter you so that they may cause you to rush violently to your own death. This is the nature of our spiritual struggle. In 1 Peter 5:8, St. Peter says that our adversary the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." If we are going to fight the spiritual war, if we are going to live out this Christian life, then we must be aware every second of every day that the demons are there, and that they are looking for just one opening, just one second when we are not paying attention, one look that is not carefully guarded, one movement of anger, jealousy, or envy in our heart. The demons look for opportunities to destroy us. The demons never take a day off. But very often those thoughts are suggestions of the evil one. Satan and the demons are very skillful at suggesting thoughts to us and then leaving so quickly that we don't see that it was the demons that placed those thoughts in our head. They're very skillful at lining up all the facts to prove the thought. We beat Satan and the demons with the name of Jesus. It's a wonderful image of Satan and the demons in this Gospel passage, where the demons flex their muscles and scream at Jesus, "What have we to do with You?" The name of Jesus is more powerful than any demon. The name of Jesus strikes fear into the heart of Satan and all his minions. That is why the name of Jesus is to be on our lips with every breath. If we center our thoughts on the name of Jesus, then Satan will not get us with any other thoughts. That's why the Fathers say that we descend with our mind into our heart, and we guard our mind with our heart, because the name of Jesus is our protection: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." When Jesus says, "Go," the demons flee.

The Devil has not Full Power

"Among the angelic powers the chief of the terrestrial order, the one to whom God had entrusted the task of looking after the earth, was not evil by nature, he had not received any trace of evil from his Creator. He was good. However, he did not maintain the light and the honor that God had given him. By a deliberate act of his own free will he rebelled against the Creator. He turned his face away from goodness and fell into evil. Evil is in fact merely the absence of good, as darkness is the absence of light. A host of angels placed under his command followed him in the fall. Despite their angelic nature, they also freely plunged from goodness down to evil and became wicked. The devils cannot do anything against us without God's permission. But with God's permission they are powerful. All wickedness, all the passions are inspired by them but listen: God allows them to suggest sin to a person, but they cannot force him to do it. We ourselves are responsible for accepting or rejecting their seductive suggestions." --- By St. John Damascene - *The True Faith*, 2, 4 (PG94,873ff.)



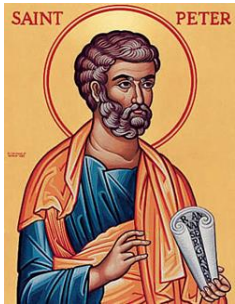
Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 28	Vigil Feast of SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 7:00 p.m.
June 29	Feast SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 9:00 a.m; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
July 4	U.S.A. Independence Day
July 17	The Feast of the Holy Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gojdich, O.S.B.M.
July 20	Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles — (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm

Holy Day of the Week — June 29

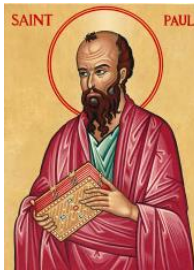
THE HOLY APOSTLE PETER

The son of Jonah and brother of Andrew the First-Called, of the tribe of Simeon and the town of Bethsaida, he was a fisherman and was at first called Simon, but the Lord was pleased to call him Cephas, or Peter (Jn 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to give clear expression to his faith in the Lord Jesus, saying: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Mt 16:16). His love for the Lord was very strong, and his faith in Him went from strength to strength. When the Lord was put on trial, Peter denied him three times, but it needed only one look into the face of the Lord, and Peter's soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter became a fearless and powerful preacher of the Gospel. After his first sermon in Jerusalem, about 3,000 souls were converted to the Faith. He preached the Gospel throughout Palestine and Asia Minor, in Italy and Illyria. He performed many wonders, healing the sick and raising the dead, and even his shadow had the power of healing the sick. He had a major struggle with Simon the Magician, who declared himself to be from God but was actually a servant of the devil. He finally put him to shame and overcame him. Peter was condemned to death on the order of the wicked Emperor Nero, a friend of Simon's. After installing Linus as Bishop of Rome and exhorting and encouraging the flock of Christ there, Peter went to his death with joy. When he saw the cross before him, he asked the executioner to crucify him upside-down, because he felt himself unworthy to die in the same way as his Lord. And so, this great servant of the greatest Master went to his rest and received a crown of eternal glory.



THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL

Born in Tarsus and of the tribe of Benjamin, he was formerly called Saul and studied under Gamaliel. He was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christians. He was wondrously converted to the Christian faith by the Lord Himself, who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He was baptized by the Apostle Ananias, named Paul and enrolled in the work of the Great Apostles. He preached the Gospel everywhere with burning zeal, from the borders of Arabia to the land of Spain, among both the Jews and the heathen, and receiving the title of "The Apostle to the Gentiles." His fearful sufferings were matched only by his superhuman endurance. Through all the years of his preaching, he hung from day to day like a thread between life and death. Filling his days and nights with toil and sufferings for Christ, organizing the Church in many places and receiving a high level of perfection, he was able to say: "I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20). He was beheaded in Rome in the reign of Nero, at the same time as St. Peter was being crucified.



General Announcements

GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE CONTINUES TO LEND A HELPING HAND TO VETERANS FISHER HOUSE

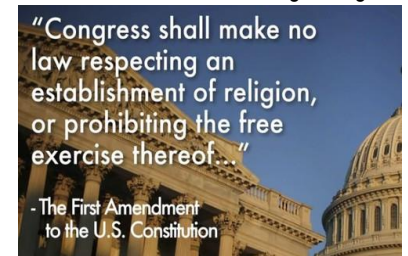


Our local GCU Lodge is continuing to collect items to help Pittsburgh's VA Fisher House. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is a 10-bedroom "home away from home" and provides a place for visiting families to stay, free of charge, while their loved ones receive inpatient medical care at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is professionally furnished and features a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room with a library, and toys for children. They are requesting assistance

in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Boxes will be placed at the side vestibule and narthex areas of both parishes for the **collection that will extend to August 8**. Further information of needed items will be forthcoming. For additional information, phone Tina (412) 859-9597. Let's help our afflicted veterans and their families by supporting our GCU Lodge in this collection!

PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONTINUES — DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Catholic eparchies and dioceses across the Commonwealth are continuing Religious Freedom Week which began **June 22 and continues through June 29**: Let us stand up and learn, defend, proclaim the Truth of our Faith and by offering this prayer for Religious Freedom: **O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your**



Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome — for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us — this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen."

. REGISTER FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. This celebration has been extended on a new format. It will take place on **Sunday, September 12, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Elias Church, Munhall**. If you are observing one of the above milestones, *please contact the Church office A.S.A.P*

