

Parish Offerings – 5th Sunday after Pentecost — June 27, 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 (\$1,779) YP (\$22) | \$1,800.00 |
| Holy Days (\$232) YP (\$2) Easter (\$20) | 252.00 |
| Peter's Pence (\$36) Initial (\$10) | 46.00 |
| Votive Candles | 171.55 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$2,601.55 |

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

| | |
|--|----------|
| Regular Offering | \$968.00 |
| Holy Days (\$45) Pentecost (\$5) | 50.00 |
| Utilities (\$45) Improvements (\$30) | 75.00 |
| Votive Candles | 35.25 |

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,128.25

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (34)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (53); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)

SS. Peter & Paul — Mon. (MR) 7:00 pm (14) & Tues (MR) 9:00 am (12); (NS) 6:00 pm (16)



GOD ★ ★ ★
BLESS
America
LAND THAT I LOVE

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



DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 580-1545
Nancde@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
*Sewing, Alterations, 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**



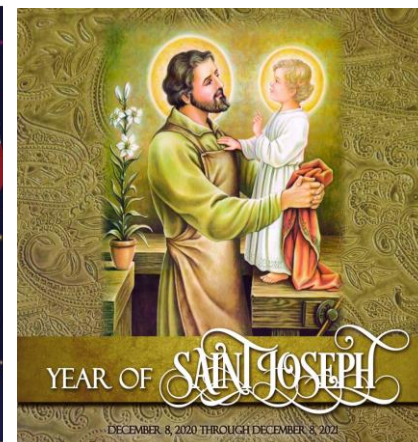
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Annual Independence Day — July 4, 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

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.

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).

Jul 4, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 27



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

Independence Day Observed — No Postal Service & Banking

Mon, Jul 5 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health, Welfare & Forgiveness of Sins of our Country

Tue Jul 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Maletz Brother: Bob & Martha Maletz

Wed, Jul 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Walt & Kelly Thurner Christine & Al Barnash

Thrs, Jul 8 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anne + George Checque Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance

Fri, Jul 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Mazur Tammy Phillips
(11th ann of passing)



Commemoration of our Venerable Father Anthony of the Cave

Sat, Jul 10 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr. Leyte & Mike Tomchak & Alex & Linda Bilak
(8th ann of passing)



7th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Jul 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Mazur Maria Odzga

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

Jul 4 – Michelle Cifrutak; Jul 6 – Stephen Kosko; Jul 7 – Tim Bedard, Anna Stebbins, MONSIGNOR PETER TAY; Jul 9 – Albert Kovacs, John Kutchmark, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS; Jul 10 – Albert Kovacs, Jr.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, 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 Cifrutak.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. My cousin is a lesbian living with another woman. Am I a bigot for feeling uncomfortable around them? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: By acting out on their homosexuality, your cousin and her partner are doing something that you know is offensive to God. How can that not make you feel uncomfortable? There is no bigotry in this. It is perfectly OK—even necessary—to judge behavior and to feel uncomfortable around others whose behavior you know to be immoral. The Catechism of the Catholic Church informs us that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered" (CCC 2357). And while the Church calls us to accept those who suffer from homosexuality with "respect, compassion, and sensitivity," (CCC 2358) it also clearly teaches that, "under no circumstances, can [homosexual acts] be approved" (CCC 2357).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jul 4 — Jul 10, 2021

(MR): In memory of Fran Klobchar
offered by Maria Iyengar

(NS): In memory of Jeffrey Voelker



FACTS OF U.S. INDEPENDENCE

AN INTERESTING LOOK AT AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

(WIKIPEDIA) — During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a



statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it two days later on July 4. The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

INTERESTING INFORMATION OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS

The original states, except Rhode Island, collectively appointed 70 individuals to the Constitutional Convention. A number of these individuals did not accept or could not attend, including Richard Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock. In all, 55 delegates attended the Constitutional Convention sessions, but only 39 actually signed the Constitution. The delegates ranged in age from Jonathan Dayton, aged 26, to Benjamin Franklin, aged 81, who was so infirm that he had to be carried to sessions in a sedan chair.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is the national anthem of the United States. The lyrics come from the "Defence of Fort M'Henry", a poem written on September 14, 1814, by 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in Baltimore Harbor during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the large U.S. flag, with 15 stars and 15 stripes, known as the Star-Spangled Banner, flying triumphantly above the fort during the U.S. victory.... "The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889, and by U.S. president Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by



6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Trust that God will do the best — Read Matthew 9: 1-8

Those who brought the paralytic to Jesus did so because they believed in Him. It was faith in Jesus that inspired them to come to Him. It was also love for their



paralyzed friend that emboldened them to make their way through the crowd and bring him to Jesus. The carrying of the paralytic to Christ by his friends is an image of the Church. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to carry our needy brethren to the Lord, through intercession and charity. St Paul says that we are to bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). At the same time, we have to accept

the fact that we often need others to carry *us*, since we too are afflicted and weak and needy, in constant need of forgiveness and healing. This is how the Lord wants his love to flow within the Church: when we happen to be strong, we are to carry others; when we are weak, others are to carry us. Jesus recognized both their faith in Him and their love for their paralyzed friend, yet what He first granted was not what they had originally come to Him for. They wanted physical healing, but Jesus first granted forgiveness of sins. ***Sin is a break in a relationship by to our words, thoughts, actions, and inactions.*** When we encounter Jesus, we have to be prepared to let go of our presuppositions and expectations. He may manifest Himself in a way that runs counter to the image of Him we may have built up in our own thoughts and prayers. He may do things in our lives, in our souls, that we do not expect, and perhaps that we do not even *like*. He may upset our comfortable piety with a divine wake-up call that will leave us reeling and realizing that we didn't know it all after all, but were blind and ignorant until the light of Christ showed us both our sins and his glory. The paralytic wanted to walk, but Jesus took away his sins. Yet even if the paralytic was initially disappointed, he must have taken courage as Jesus told him to, and put his trust in the Lord. For Jesus did in fact give the man what he wanted, but only after giving him what *He* wanted to give, which was the most important thing. The lesson: Trust that God will do what is best!

Tip of the day: Jesus does not wait to see the faith of the ignorant ... Yet he does not refuse to help the faith of another, so that by grace alone he confers whatever is proper of the divine will

(Chrysologus). In other words, bring others to prayer (ALSO FASTING & ALMSGIVING) and place them at the feet of Christ!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 4 U.S.A. Independence Day
July 17 The Feast of the Holy Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gajdich, O.S.B.M.
July 20 Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles — (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm
August 1 - 14 Commencement of the Saviorial Fast (Spasovka).
August 6 ... Feast of the Holy Transfiguration — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) 6:00 p.m. Blessing of grapes and fruits.
August 15 Feast of the Dormition — Blessing of Herbs & Flowers.

Saint of the Week — July 8

THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR PROCOPIUS

The holy Martyr Procopius was born of a pious father named



Christopher, but his mother Theodosia was an idolater. After Christopher's death, she presented Neanias - for this was the Saint's name before - to Diocletian, who was at Antioch in Syria. Diocletian made him Duke of Alexandria, and sent him there to punish the Christians. On the way to Alexandria, our Lord spoke to Neanias as once He had to Saul, and turned this new persecutor to faith in Him. Neanias turned back to Scythopolis, and preached Christ. He was betrayed by his own mother, and was arrested

and tormented in Caesarea of Palestine. While he was in prison, the Lord appeared to him again and gave him the new name of Procopius (which is derived from the Greek word meaning "progress, advancement"). He was brought out of prison and taken to worship the idols, but at his prayer, the idols fell; many then believed in Christ and suffered martyrdom, among them certain soldiers, twelve women of senatorial rank, and the Saint's own mother, Theodosia. Saint

Procopius, after further torments and imprisonment, was beheaded about the year 290.

General Announcements

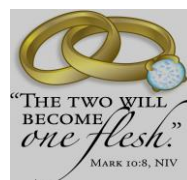
GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE CONTINUES TO LEND A HELPING HAND TO VETERANS FISHER HOUSE — Our local GCU Lodge is continuing to



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. Please refer to today's S.O.T. insert.** 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!

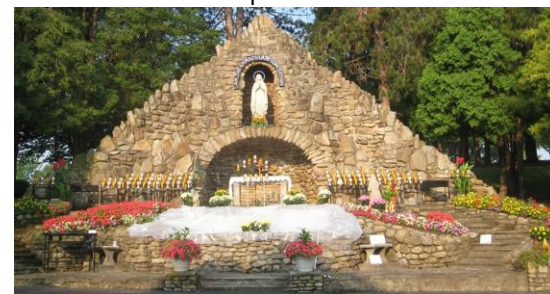
LAST WEEKS TO REGISTER FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE — The



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*

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.

Have a safe and Happy 4th of July Holiday!