

Parish Offerings – 9th Sunday after Pentecost — July 25, 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 (\$1,602.50) YP (\$13)	\$1,615.50
Holy Days (\$235) YP (\$4)	239.00
Special Donation	2,500.00
Votive Candles	149.40
	<hr/>
	\$4,503.90

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$745.44
Holy Days	15.00
Utilities (\$40) Improvements (\$22)	62.00
Votive Candles	41.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$863.44

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (41)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (45); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)



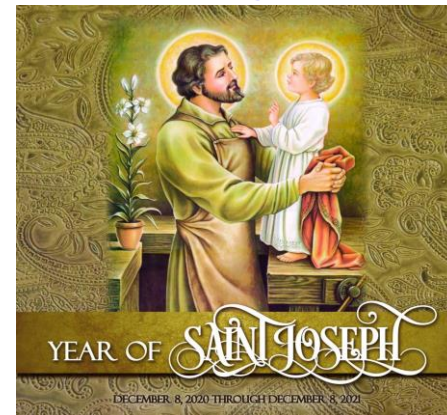
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Beginning of the Savorial Fast — August 1, 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
III Serving Yours Since 1953

MUSTARD SEED FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS
MATTHEW 17:20
WORDS OF INSPIRATION

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 to remember the Church in your last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!



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).

Aug 1, 2021 **Seasonal Greeting:** Volume XI Number 31



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date **Time** **Intention** **Requested By**

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Commencement of the 14-day Savorial Fast (Spasovka)

SUN., Aug 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Pyda (8th ann of passing 7/25) Son: Bill
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll Son: William

Mon, Aug 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alice Smoley Dgtr: Mary Ann

Tue, Aug 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Pearl Revtai (memorial) Revtai, Fikisz & PettiJohn Families

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church

Wed, Aug 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Lawrence Kruszka Grandson: Peter Rybowicz

Prefestive of the Transfiguration Feast

Thrs, Aug 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Minford Sister: Florence Charochak

Transfiguration of Our Lord, God & Savior



Jesus Christ — Solemn Holy Day

Solemn Blessing of Grapes & Other Fruits

First Friday of the Month —Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

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

Fri, Aug 6 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna May Sejka Sandy Mikovitz
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

Sat, Aug 7 *** 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
*** 10:00 a.m. (NS) + George Hudanick, Sr. (memorial) Wife: Dolores & Famiy

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Anna Kocak Niece: Dolores & Steve Kosko

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Transfiguration Feast — Savorial Fast (Spasovka) continues

SUN., Aug 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Nazak (2nd ann of pass 8/5) Dgtrs & Grandchildren
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Milan Jugan (2nd ann of pass 7/20) Wife: Irene & Family

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

Aug 3 – Olga Stashkevych; **Aug 4** – Bernice Herrick, Maximus Puluka; **Aug 5** – Peter Stecko, Judy Wovchko; **Aug 7** – Adam Krempasky, Carol Lipchick.

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, Mike Muska, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Pearl Revtai, 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. How can I be less hypocritical? I know what Jesus says and what I believe but I often go against these beliefs. **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** So, does almost everyone in the world. SS. Peter & Paul and every saint in history (with the exception of Mary), struggle with this very problem (Rom 7:15-25). Here are some practical tips that will help you in this struggle: (1) Knowledge is power. If you know your faith, you will know more about how to fight the devil and the temptation to sin (1Peter 5:8-9; CCC 409); (2) Read the lives of the saints. These men and women have been where you are now, and their heroic example will inspire you (Phil 4:9); (3) Live a sacramental life. Attend the Divine Liturgy more than just on Sunday & Holy Days, pray the rosary, and go to Confession frequently, especially if you have sinned seriously (Heb 10:25; 1 Thess 5:17; CCC 1127, 1129). And (4) In prayer ask Jesus for guidance (Mt 7:7)



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 1 — August 7, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Loretta & Andrew Yakubik**

offered by Dgtr: Evelyn

(NS): **In memory of Mary & Ronald Farabaugh** (wed ann 8/24)

(MR) None available 2021 offered by Dgtr: Marianne J. Farabaugh (NS) None available 2021

McKees Rocks Announcements

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE FOR CHURCH BASEMENT & GYM RESTROOMS — Work continues in the restrooms at both locations. In the meantime, if you wish to use washroom facilities please use the handicap one located in the library area.

North Side Announcements

No Particular Announcements This Week

DIVINE LITURGY OBLIGATION MANDATE LIFTED IN TWO WEEKS — In last week's S.O.T., an announcement by Archbishop Skurla was published. In essence, he is removing the dispensation for Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation effective **Sunday, August 15, 2021.**

ONE ADDITIONAL WEEK GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE COLLECTS FOR LOCAL 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. Take a listed items insert located in the narthex/side vestibule.** 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!



BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS IN TWO WEEKS



— Following each of the Divine Liturgies **on the weekend of August 21 & 22, 2021** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the actual and/or virtual Academic Year of 2020-2021 in their various schools, colleges and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing comes the third weekend of August. Receive God's blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy. **There is a RSVP for both teachers & students via phone call, or email if you plan to participate in this blessing by August 16.**

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS UNTIL ANNOUNCED — Until the 2022 Ecclesiastical Record Book arrives, the Church office will not be accepting intentions. An announcement will be appearing in a future edition of the S.O.T. when you may reserve your special date requests Thank you for your patience.

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Do You Have A Mustard Seed Size Faith? (Mt 17: 14-23)

Faith that is the size of a mustard seed – even faith the size of the smallest seeds – is faith that can make a tree that can change the world. A person with faith the size of such a seed can be a full participant in God's plan. There is no minimum amount needed in order to be claimed by Christ. Your faith, no matter how weak and no matter how small is enough. So, don't be afraid to use your mustard seed faith, discover what you can do with the faith that you have, and practice using the faith that you have been given. If you do, you just might find that your tiny mustard seed faith will grow into something truly amazing! Faith is to live by entrusting oneself to God's promises. Faith is always God's gift and never our own accomplishment. Faith is ever and



only a response empowered by an amazing grace originating from outside of our own efforts that enables us to entrust ourselves willingly to One we have found trustworthy. It is especially, through word and sacrament that God bestows this faith. The words of Jesus are not meant to emphasize an extraordinary physical phenomenon. Rather the contrast between the mountain and the grain of mustard seed stresses the infinite possibilities which are open to authentic faith. It is evident here that Jesus intends our faith to be something other than a simple intellectual adherence to revealed truth. Jesus speaks of faith as being a humble and total trust in the all-powerful goodness of God. If I have but a grain of authentic faith, I can risk making that faith the basis of my life in all circumstances, confident that God will grant the true and best solutions to all my difficulties. That would be my way of removing mountains.

FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

The importance of Sunday and Participating at the Divine Liturgy

The following article was written by a Catholic Apologist, Matt Nelson and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of Sunday and worshipping at the Divine Liturgy. Space does not permit the entire article.

Every Sunday "the whole Christ" is reunited in and through the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, our choice to participate is salvific: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Theologian Colin Donovan reminds us that "in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) it is Christ himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to his. In no other way is it possible to adequately give thanks (Eucharistic) to God . . . than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ himself." Christ does with us in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) what we cannot do alone: make a perfect offering to the Father. The key to understanding why Catholics must attend Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) lies above all in the essence of the Mass (Divine Liturgy) itself. Our duty to be willing participants **IS NOT rooted in how it makes us feel but in what it is.** As the sacred meeting place of God and man, the Mass (Divine Liturgy) reorients our lives towards God, reunites us with him in love, and thereby communicates the grace of salvation to our souls. In the long run, there can be nothing more productive than that.



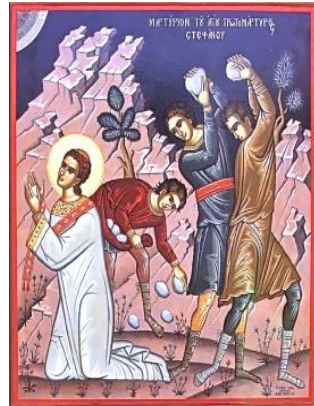
Calendar of Upcoming Events

- August 1 - 14 Commencement of the Savioral 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 8 GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge Meeting, School Basement @ 2:00 p.m.
- August 15 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers.
- August 21-22 Blessing of Students and Teachers for the new Academic School Year following weekend DL.
- August 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist.
- September 1 Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
- September 5 86th Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina.
- September 6 Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday. Morning Divine Liturgy (MR) 9:00 a.m.
- September 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
- September 12 Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm

Saint of the Week

THE FINDING AND THE TRANSPOSITION OF THE RELICS OF ST. STEPHEN, THE ARCHDEACON AND PROTO-MARTYR — Aug 2

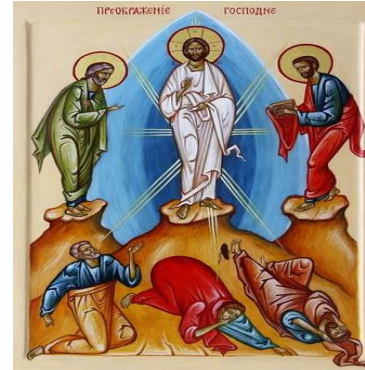
When the wicked Jews slew St. Stephen by stoning, they left his body for the dogs to consume. However, God's Providence intended otherwise. The martyr's body lay in an open place at the foothill of the city for one night and two days. The second night Gamaliel, Paul's teacher and secretly a disciple of Christ, came and removed the body and took it to Caphargamala on his estate and there he honorably buried it in a cave. Gamaliel also buried his friend Nicodemus who died weeping over the grave of Stephen in the same cave. Gamaliel also buried his baptized son Abibus there and according to his will, was buried there also. Since that time, many centuries passed and no one living knew where the body of St. Stephen was buried. However, in the year 415 A.D. during the reign of John, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Gamaliel appeared three times in a dream to Lucian, the priest at Caphargamala and, at length, related everything to him concerning the burial of all the afore-mentioned showing him the exact spot of their forgotten graves. Excited by this dream Lucian informed the patriarch and with his blessing went with a group of men and exhumed the four graves. Gamaliel had already told him in the dream whose grave was which. A strong sweet-smelling fragrance from the relics of the saints permeated the entire cave. The relics of St. Stephen were then solemnly translated to Zion and honorably buried there and the relics of the remaining three were moved to a hill above the cave and were placed in a church. That day, many healings of the sick occurred by the relics of St. Stephen. Later on, St. Stephen's relics were translated to Constantinople. Thus, the Lord crowned him for glorifying His Holy Name as he shed his blood in martyrdom.



Holy Archdeacon Stephen, pray to God for us!

General Announcements

TRANSFIGURATION: A SOLEMN HOLY DAY — Christian theology assigns a great deal of significance to the Transfiguration, based on multiple elements of the narrative. In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth. The Transfiguration not only supports the identity of Jesus as the Son of God (as in his Baptism), but the statement "listen to him", identifies him as the messenger and mouth-piece of God. The significance of this identification is enhanced by the presence of Elijah and Moses, for it indicates to the apostles that Jesus is the voice of God "par excellence", and instead of Elijah or Moses, he should be listened to, surpassing the laws



of Moses by virtue of his filial relationship with God. In 2 Peter 1:16–18, echoes the same message: at the Transfiguration God assigns to Jesus a special "honor and glory" and it is the turning point at which God exalts Jesus above all other powers in creation, and positions him as ruler and judge. The Transfiguration also echoes the teaching by Jesus (as in Matthew 22:32) that God is not "the God of the dead, but of the living". Although Moses had died and Elijah had been taken up to heaven centuries before (as in 2 Kings 2:11), they now live in the presence of the Son of God, implying that the same return to life can apply to all who face death and have faith. The faithful bring **Grapes and other fruits of the summer harvest will be blessed. From grapes come the wine at which the transfigured Jesus appears in the Eucharistic Form; and the fruits symbol God's bounty to us His people and His desire to feed us.**

PENITENTIAL PERIOD IN PREPARATION FOR THE DORMITION FEAST — During this fourteen-day penitential period, the Church prescribes the Paraklis Service be held in honor of the Mother of God. The word "paraklis" has two different meanings: the first is "consolation," from which the Holy Spirit is called the "Paraclete," or "Consoler"; the second is "supplication" or "petition". The Paraklis Service consists of supplication hymns to obtain consolation and courage. It should be recited in times of temptation, discouragement or sickness. It is used more particularly during the two weeks before the Dormition of the Theotokos, from **August 1 to August 14**. The theme of this Paraklis Services centers around the petition. "Most Holy Mother of God, save us." *Following each of the daily Divine Liturgies we will offer a portion of this service for all our family, relatives and friends who have left our church so that they may return for the sake of their salvation. Also, as we continue in this pandemic era, we will pray the vanquishing of the coronavirus.*



GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING NEXT WEEK — The August



quarterly meeting will be IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL on **Sunday, August 8, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are expected to RSVP to participate in-person or 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. Since there is construction in progress in the Church Basement, the meeting will be conducted in the School Basement.