

Parish Offerings – 10th Sunday after Pentecost – August 1, 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 (\$4,042) YP (\$7)	\$4,049.00
Holy Days	98.00
Votive Candles	162.17
	<hr/>
	\$4,309.17

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$665.00
Holy Days	60.00
Utilities (\$25) Improvements (\$60)	85.00
Votive Candles	61.01

Church Attendance Last Week \$871.01

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (41)
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (58); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)

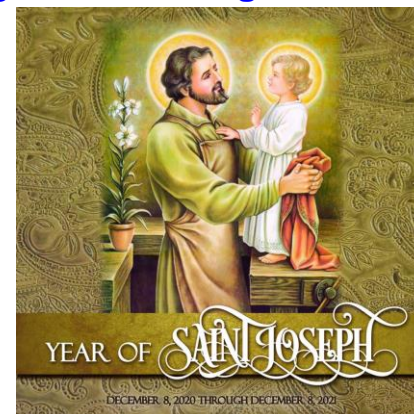
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Postfestive of the Transfiguration — August 8, 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
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Ill Serving Yours Since 1953

Faith is...

Holding on tight when the going gets windy.

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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

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

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 8, 2021

Seasonal Greeting: Volume XI Number 32

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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Transfiguration Feast — Saviorial 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

Commemoration of the Holy Apostle Matthias

Mon, Aug 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen Rybowicz Son: Peter

Tue, Aug 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Lillian Buchko Mitch Pavlovich

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

Wed, Aug 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Edward Zotyak Wife: Florence
 (5th ann of passing)

Thrs, Aug 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michele J. (Terrek) Chiavetta + Dolly & John Pieta
 (2nd ann of passing 8/11)

Final Day of the Transfiguration Feast

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

Fri, Aug 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Agnes Knoll (birthday 8/18) Son: William



Perfective of the Dormition Feast

Sat, Aug 14 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary + Michael Korim Nephew: Fr. Firko
 (anniversaries of passing)

 Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost — Dormition Feast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy (birthday) Son: Kurt

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Holy Dormition of the Theotokos

SUN., Aug 15 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna Bernadette & Jim Gunkel
 (2nd ann of pass 8/2)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Rita + Tom Hollinger Kathryn & William Kress
 (2nd ann of pass 7/20)

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 9 – Russell Keller, Frank Lipchick, Gregory Rosko; **Aug 10** – Betty Wickline; **Aug 12** – Linda Rieger, Erik Wenger.

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, Evelyn Yakubik

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. Did Jesus really establish the Catholic Church?? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Yes. The best sources to testify to that reality are the Bible and the early Church Fathers. Here are several Catholic Answers resources to aid you in demonstrating that historical reality: our booklet Pillar of Fire, Pillar of Truth; our tracts on Peter and the Papacy and The Origins of Peter as Pope; and also our tract on Peter's Primacy as affirmed by the Church Fathers. In addition, examine any reputable secular history of the early Church. Even if the historian doesn't like the Catholic Church, they'll affirm the historical realities of the existence of the papacy, belief in the Eucharist, etc. You won't see distinctive Protestant doctrines affirmed as existing in the early Church.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 8 — August 14, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Kacsur & Stecko Families**

offered Barbara & Peter Stecko

(NS): **In memory of Edward Zotyak (5th ann of passing 8/11)**

(MR) None available 2021

offered by Wife: Florence

(NS) None available 2021

McKees Rocks Announcements

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE FOR CHURCH BASEMENT & GYM RESTROOMS — Work continues in the restrooms at both locations. This past week, the Gym Restrooms received a new coat of plaster on the walls. It truly gives it an upgraded look. In the meantime, when using the Church's washroom facilities, please use the handicap one located in the library area.

North Side Announcements

No Particular Announcements This Week

DIVINE LITURGY DISPENSATION 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.**

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.

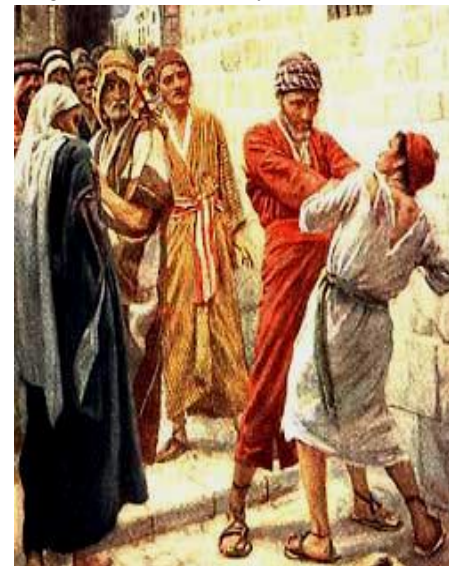
SPECIAL THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S HELPERS — When Holy Days roll around, especially those that have special blessings attached to them, it is good to know that others are there to offer some sacrificial assistance. A note of gratitude it extended to those who purchased the grapes for the Transfiguration blessing; and to those who washed them and bagged them in such a way that they are kept free from the pandemic germ. Also, for those who cut the bread used in the distribution of the Mirovanije and placed them in personal plastic food bags. Additional thanks is extended to all who offer assistance when the Church office call. If you would like to offer assistance when it's needed, please call the office. May God always remember your good deeds done in secret, and reward you!



11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

An Important Lesson on Forgiveness from the Fathers of the Church *(Matthew 18: 23-35)*

The beautiful mystery of seventy-seven is this: in that special number all sins of all generations were symbolized as having been forgiven. Since no generation was



omitted, no generation misses out on the full gift of divine forgiveness in the cross. So also, should we learn to forgive each other to the same extent that God has fully forgiven us. The frequency of pardon shows us there is never a time for anger, since God pardons us for all sins in their entirety by his gift rather than by our merit (Hilary of Poitiers).

In today's Gospel-parable, the unmerciful servant had lost a vast amount. Much had been loaned and entrusted to him, but he had brought no gain to his master (Origen). The master's teaching purpose was to show him with all justice precisely how much debt he was going to free him from. In this way at

least he might in due time become gentler toward his fellow servant. Yet, even having learned of the weight of his debt and the greatness of the forgiveness, he continued to seize his fellow servant by the throat (Chrysostom). The forced sale of his wife and family portrays metaphorically utter separation from the joys of God (Cyril of Alexandria). God created us from nothing and made the whole visible world for us. To us alone he breathed a living soul. Yet after all this, when humanity proved ungrateful toward its benefactor, God thought us worthy of an even greater gift: forgiveness (Chrysostom). God forgives our immense debt often thousand talents on the proviso that we **ourselves release our fellow servants from the paltry hundred denarii, from the few** minor faults they have committed against us (Cyril of Alexandria). The king in the parable is the Son of God, and the kingdom belongs to the one who incomparably defines kingship itself and makes it possible (Origen). Compare the two servants: one was indebted for ten thousand talents, the other for a pittance. One was merely dealing with his fellow servant, while the other was dealing with his lord. The one received entire forgiveness, the other asked for delay (Chrysostom). The story demands two things of us: to remember our own faults and not to bear a grudge against one who stumbles (Apollinaris).

***Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us!***

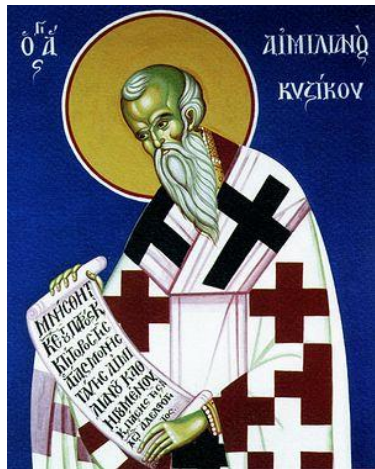
Calendar of Upcoming Events

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	86 th 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 Venerable Father Emilian the Confessor Bishop of Cyzicus — August 8

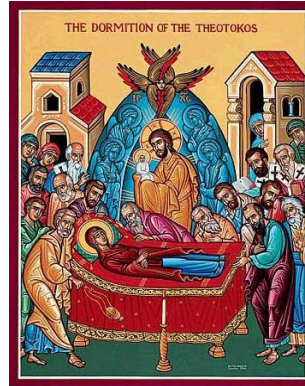
Emilian was born sometime in the middle 8th century. Not much is known about his upbringing; the first time we see him in the historical record is as Bishop of the island community of Cyzicus, Turkey by the Sea of Marmara near Constantinople that connects the Black Sea with the Aegean. Bishop Emilian was among the bishops summoned to the council called by Nicephorus. Another famous attendee at the council was St. Theodore the Studite. At this meeting, Leo the Armenian addressed the Greek episcopate and asked them to cease promoting the veneration of images. St. Emilian was the first bishop to speak up against the emperor, and the meeting ended in discord. A period of intense persecution followed; Patriarch Nicephorus saw his power drastically reduced, and Leo ordered all icons removed from churches. Some monks and bishops protested. St. Emilian, after withstanding Leo and refusing to carry out his edict, was arrested in 815 and sent into exile. Other ecclesiastics fled west and sought refuge with the papal court. Emilian's exile was a severe cross, as he was beaten and tormented regularly by his captors. Once, his captors burned a blasphemous phrase into the flesh of his forehead using a hot iron. His flesh was so wracked and tormented with beatings and burning that it began to rot while still attached to his body. Eventually, Emilian succumbed to his torments and on August 8, 820 a.m. entered eternal rest.



St. Emilian, tormented because of your faithfulness to Church Teaching, pray for us!

General Announcements

FEAST OF THE DORMITION FALLS NEXT SUNDAY — We will be celebrating the **Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Mother of God and her Transference into Heaven next weekend**. It is the most ancient Marian Feast of the Church. It is customary to bless flowers and herbs on this day. This custom of the Church arose when the Holy Theotokos fell-asleep on Mount Zion and all of the apostles were miraculously transported back to Jerusalem with the exception of St. Thomas. Following the funeral procession along the Kidron Valley to the Gethsemane tomb, they returned to Mount Zion. Thomas later arrived and urged the apostles to take him to view and pray before the mortal remains. When then arrived at the tomb an aromatic fragrance of flowers and herbs filled the air near the spot when they laid her. Her most pure body was no longer present. Receiving a vision that she was transferred to



heaven, the apostles rejoiced and strengthened to proclaim the Good News of her beloved Son, Jesus. Following the Divine Liturgies flowers and herbs will be solemnly blessed as a thanksgiving offering. *Since flowers symbolize the beauty of Eternal Life, and herbs a healing remedy for the body, you may wish to take a blessed flower and place it on the grave(s) of your loved one(s) as a symbol of faith and a prayer that they may be resting in the eternal Kingdom of heaven. Bring flowers and herbs for this special blessing!* Check the liturgical page for the times of the Divine Liturgies.

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 TODAY — The August



quarterly meeting will be IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL today **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.