

Parish Offerings – 11th Sunday after Pentecost – August 8, 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 (\$2,559.50) YP (\$14)	\$2,573.50
Holy Days	190.00
Votive Candles	89.00
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	\$2,852.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$990.00
Holy Days (\$25) Improvements (\$20)	45.00
Special Donation (+ George Hudanick, Sr.)	250.00
Votive Candles	40.35

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,325.35

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (24)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (56); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

Feast of the Transfiguration — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (19); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (17)

THE GUARDRAIL



A Joyful Toon by Mike Waters



Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life, but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die. — PROVERBS 19:16 NIV

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 really need a day between Saturday and Sunday.

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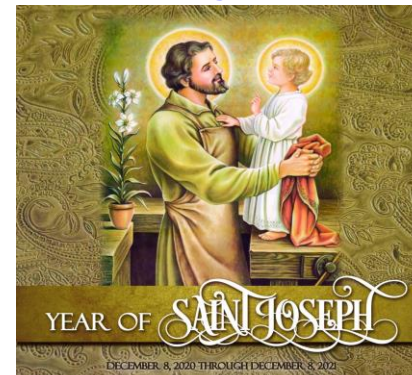
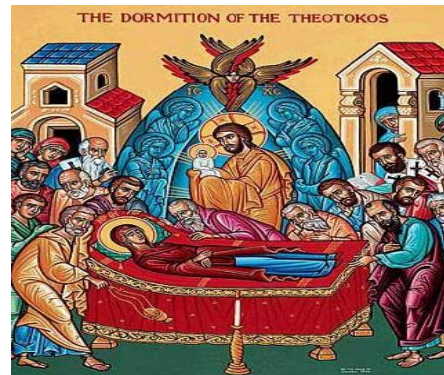
This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office

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

Come Join Us

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
DORMITION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
CORONA DISPENSATION LIFTED — August 15, 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.
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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 15, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 33

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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Holy Dormition of the Theotokos

Solemn Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

SUN., Aug 15	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elizabeth Petruna (2 nd ann of pass 8/2)	Bernadette & Jim Gunkel
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Rita + Tom Hollinger (2 nd ann of pass 7/20)	Kathryn & William Kress



Transposition of the Icon of Our Lord made without hands

Mon, Aug 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Charochak + Chirko Families	Florence & Deb
Tue, Aug 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Jan Fejka + Samantha Fejka (memorial)	Cousin: Susan
Wed, Aug 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Aaron Leshko (7 th ann of passing)	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
Thrs, Aug 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Josipa Opat	Gataric Family

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

Fri, Aug 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mark A. Cifrulak	Nancy & Jenő Lecci
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Sat, Aug 21	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost — Dormition Feast
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Michele J. (Terrek) Chiavetta Mom: Mildred & Family

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Holy Dormition of the Theotokos

SUN., Aug 22	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anne Hrebenak (18 th ann of passing)	Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Helen Meaders	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 16 – Janet Sendro; Aug 18 – Isabella Bedard, Peter Zubritzky; Aug 19 – Anna (Keller) Colbert, IRENE JUGAN; Aug 20 – Nina Bella Lecci, Aug 21 – Carmella Marie Rippole.

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, 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, Mildred Terrek

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. If I cannot recall if I mentioned a particular sin the last time I went to confession but recall it now, should I mention it in my next confession, or was it absolved already? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** It was absolved already. If it is a venial sin, you do not need to confess it. If it was a mortal sin, it was absolved, provided you at least implicitly intended to mention it if you had remembered it. What this means is that you confessed all known sins and would have confessed whatever others you committed had you recalled them. So, if you now recall a mortal sin, mention it the next time you go to confession.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 15 — August 21, 2021

(MR): In memory of Irene Hrebenak

offered Maria Iyengar

(NS): In memory of Agnes & Anthony Knoll

(MR) None available 2021

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) None available 2021



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the recent and unexpected passing of **Jan Fejka and Samantha Fejka**, of Louisiana at a local hospital in the New Orleans area. They were cousins of parishioner, Susan Fejka and the Fejka Families. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servants, Jan and Samantha, and remember them forever. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'!



RENOVATIONS CONTINUE FOR CHURCH BASEMENT & GYM RESTROOMS — This past week, Century Interiors, Inc. were getting ready to apply the paint color for the restrooms. Floor tile was chosen to match the decor. 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

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.

RETIRED ARCHIEPARCHIAL PRIEST PASSES AWAY — The S.O.T. announces the recent passing of Fr. Joseph Jugan, 91, a retired priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh on Monday, August 9, 2021 in Johnstown, PA. Fr. Jugan retired from active priestly ministry in 2015 after serving several years at St. Michael Church, Canonsburg, PA. He was also, at the same time, Protopresbyter (Dean) of the Tri-State Deanery for several years. His retirement returned him to Johnstown, his home city. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home, Johnstown. The Hierarchical Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla on Friday, August 13 at 10:00 a.m. Interment then followed at Calvary Cemetery, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA. Our parish families extend its most sincere condolences to the Jugan family. In blessed



repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, Fr. Joseph, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'.

Place a blessed flower on the grave of your loved ones as a sign of faith in the Theotokos' Transference into heaven

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

Mary's Assumption in the Eastern Tradition

The following article was written by a Catholic Answer writer, Deacon Daniel G. Dozer and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of understanding the Dormition Feast. Space does not permit the entire article.

.... We celebrate this holy end of Mary's life today with the Solemnity of the Assumption, in the East called the Dormition. Catholics of the Latin tradition often assume that Mary's final end has been sufficiently addressed by the dogma of the Assumption, that is, her translation, body and soul, into heaven as defined by Pius XII in 1950.... The Byzantine tradition, however, as part of the universal and fully Catholic patrimony of the Church, is not silent on this topic. It guards a rich treasury of teaching, iconography, and liturgy concerning the end of Mary's life.... These three events—her death, her resurrection, and her assumption into heaven—complete the mosaic of the holy end of Mary's life. According to Stephen Shoemaker, a contemporary theologian who specializes in the area of the Dormition traditions, some of the common threads running through the Palm narratives are as follows: **1) An angel meets Mary on the Mount of Olives and announces to her that her time of death has come and brings to her a palm branch from the Tree of Life in paradise; 2) Mary goes back to her home in Jerusalem and informs her friends and family of the message of the angel, and the apostles, who were engaged in their respective missions all over the earth, re-gather miraculously in Jerusalem; 3) Peter, who is treated as the head of the apostles, delivers a homily to those who have come the night before to pray as Mary prepares for her death; 4) When the moment arrives, the crowds are put to sleep, all except the apostles and three virgins, who see Jesus and a host of angels appear; 5) Jesus receives the immaculate soul of Mary, appearing in the form of an infant in white swaddling clothes, and gives it to Michael the Archangel; 6) The apostles carry Mary's body on a funeral bier to a tomb beside the Garden of Gethsemane; 7) Jephonias, one of the Jewish leaders, attempts to upend the funeral bier but as he does so his hands are severed by an angel, then later restored by his conversion and prayers to Mary; 8) After laying her body in the tomb, the apostles wait for Christ there for several days until he returns, resurrects Mary and takes her body, along with the apostles, to paradise; 9) **The apostles, after being shown heaven and hell, then return to earth with Mary remaining, body and soul, in heaven. One of the later narratives also mentions a situation where Thomas arrives late. By the time he reaches the city and meets with the other apostles, Mary has been buried and he requests to see her body in the sealed tomb. When the tomb is opened, however, Mary's body is not to be found, but rather the relics of her funeral robe and her belt.** The finding of the relics is also part of the Dormition traditions of Constantinople and Ephesus.**



DIVINE LITURGY DISPENSATION LIFTED TODAY — As has been announced in Church and in previous S.O.T.'s, the dispensation granted by our Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla ceases today, August 15. This does not apply to those who are ill. If you are in need of a dispensation, you may phone the Church office and ask to speak with the pastor.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 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 Archdiocesan Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm

Commemoration of the Week

The Transposition of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople – Aug 16

During the time of the earthly ministry of the Savior, Abgar, ruler in the Syrian city of Edessa, was afflicted with leprosy. Reports of the great miracles performed by the Lord extended throughout Syria (Matt. 4:24) and as far as Arabia at this time. Although not having seen the Lord,



Abgar believed in him and wrote a letter requesting Christ to come and heal him. Abgar sent his court painter, Ananias, with this letter to Palestine telling him to paint an image of the Divine Teacher. Ananias was not able to go to see Christ because of the great many people listening to his preaching. He attempted to produce an image of the Lord Jesus Christ from afar, but could not. The Lord called Ananias and promised to send his disciple in order to heal Abgar from the leprosy and instruct him in salvation. Then the Lord called for water and a towel. He wiped His face with the towel, and on it was His Divine Image. The Savior sent the towel and a letter to Edessa back with Ananias. With

thanksgiving Abgar received the sacred objects and started healing. He continued healing until the arrival of the disciple Thaddeus, Apostle of the 70. The Apostle preached the Gospel and baptized the Abgar and all living in Edessa. Having written on the Image Not-Made-By-Hands the words, Christ-God, everyone trusting in Thee will not be put to shame, Abgar adorned it and placing it over gates of the city. For many years it was venerated by those who passed through the gates. Edessa, a great-grandson of Abgar, fell into idolatry and was determined to remove the image. In a vision, the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to conceal the image. The bishop and his clergy at night, blocked up the niche with clay tablets and bricks inclosing with it a lit lampada. Many years passed by and the inhabitants forgot about the Holy Object. In the year 545, the Persian King Chroses I, besieged Edessa, and all seemed hopeless. But Bishop Eulavios was commanded by a vision of the Theotokos to get from the enclosed niche the image with which to save the city from the adversaries. Dismantling the niche, the Bishop found the Holy Image; before it burned the lampada and on the clay tablets, with which the niche had been enclosed, was a similar image. After preceding with the Cross and the Image Not-Made-By-Hands around the walls of the city, the Persian army miraculously departed. In 630, Edessa was seized by Arabs; but they did not hinder veneration of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. In 944 the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (912-59) requested that the Image be brought to the Capital of the Orthodox. With great honor the Image of the Savior Not-Made-By-Hands was brought by the clergy to Constantinople. On **August 16** the Image of the Savior was placed in the Pharos Church of the Most-Holy Theotokos. There are several traditions concerning the fate of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. One is that it was carried away by Crusaders during the time of their dominion over Constantinople (1204-61), but the ship on which Holy Objects had been taken, sank in the Sea of Marmora. Another is that the Image Not-Made-By-Hands was taken about 1362 to Genoa, where it was presented to and preserved in a monastery dedicated to the Apostle Bartholomew.

General Announcements

FEAST OF THE DORMITION TODAY — We are celebrating one of the most ancient Marian feasts of the early church — the **Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Theotokos and her Transference into Heaven** *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.*

A NOTE FROM GCU LODGE PRESIDENT — *The GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge would like to express its gratitude to everyone that donated items and monetary gifts to make our Fisher House wish list drive a huge success. We surpassed last year's donations and our truck was overflowing. The staff at the Fisher House was again overwhelmed with this generosity. I would also like to personally thank everyone for their support in our Lodge's ongoing commitment to helping our parish family as well as our local community.— Tina Burns, GCU-NPL President.*



BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS NEXT WEEKEND — Following each of the Divine Liturgies on **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 tomorrow, August 16.**

