

Parish Offerings – 12th Sunday after Pentecost — August 15, 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	\$1,291.00
Holy Days (\$315) YP (\$17)	332.00
Votive Candles	78.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,701.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$477.00
Holy Days	95.00
Utilities	7.00
Votive Candles	32.00
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	\$611.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (26)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (55); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)



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

When my arms can't reach people who are close to my heart... I always hug them with my prayers.

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

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 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

POSTFESTIVE OF THE DORMITION FEAST

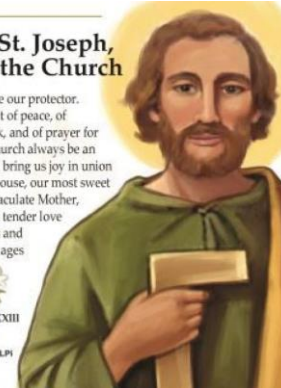
Blessing of Teachers & Students – August 22, 2021



Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron of the Church

St. Joseph! Always be our protector. May your inner spirit of peace, of silence, of good work, and of prayer for the cause of Holy Church always be an inspiration to us and bring us joy in union with your blessed spouse, our most sweet and gentle and Immaculate Mother, and in the strong yet tender love of Jesus, the glorious and immortal King of all ages and peoples.
Amen

—Pope St. John XXIII



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.

Remember the Church in Your Will: Please be so kind to remember the Church in your last

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 22, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 34



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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
Final Day of the Dormition of the Theotokos Feast			
Mon, Aug 23	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John J. Straskulic (3 rd ann of passing 8/22)	Family
Tue, Aug 24	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ruth + Albert Barnash	Son: Al & Christine Barnash
Wed, Aug 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Julia (Miklos) Sibenak (5 th ann of passing)	Son: Steven
Thrs, Aug 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Kulka (15 th ann of passing)	Children: Kathy & John

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

for the intention of peace in the world especially in Afghanistan & relief in Haiti

Fri, Aug 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sat, Aug 28 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Claudia C. Verner Husband: George
(birthday 8/22)

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

SUN., Aug 29	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Marcia Babin	Anonymous
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Nicole Elena Ringes	Baba: Anna

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 25 – Lori Lee Rippole; Aug 27 – Ilona Goyda; Aug 28 – Amy Sclight.

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, Dan Pikras, Lisa Plutto, 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 Cifrutlak, Mildred Terrek.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Are we obligated to forgive someone who has not asked for forgiveness? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Yes, we must forgive him. As Jesus makes clear in the Sermon on the Mount after providing the Lord's Prayer, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14-15). Jesus sets the example on the cross in asking his Father to forgive those who have crucified him. On the other hand, we need not necessarily associate with a person we forgive, especially if the wrongdoing he has committed against us is grave. And even if someone has repented of a grave offense, we need not necessarily associate with him. For example, if a woman has been sexually assaulted by a friend, she is morally obligated to forgive that friend but not morally obligated to continue having a friendship.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 22 — August 28, 2021

(MR): In memory of Joe Babin

offered by Wife: Gerry

(NS): In memory of Ruth & Albert Barnash

(MR) None available 2021

offered by Son: Al & Christine

(NS) None available 2021



McKees Rocks Announcements

WILLOW TREE SPLIT FROM TERRENTIAL RAIN STORM — This past week The Bottoms received a tremendous amount of rain. The good news is that we had NO FLOODING inside the Church. However, one of our pussy willow trees which was weakened with age and deterioration, split with a portion hanging over the fence and sidewalk. Half of it had to be cut and removed from the premises. We depend on these willow trees to provide us with a portion of pussy willows for Palm (Flowery) Sunday each year. They have just about seen their days and may have to be removed in the future. The roots grow deep breaking the terracotta drain pipe and obstructing rain water



from our buildings to flow into the street basin.

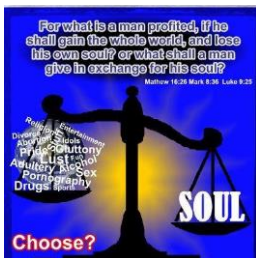
RENOVATIONS CONTINUE FOR CHURCH BASEMENT & GYM RESTROOMS —The restrooms are starting to take shape. Painting is just about completed and wash sink cabinets to be installed. The project continues forward to its completion.

North Side Announcements

No Particular Announcements This Week

How do you Determine if you can receive Holy Communion or not?

For a Catholic, examining one's conscience to determine as best as one can, whether you are in the state of grace. If you have committed any mortal sins that have not been confessed, you ARE NOT in the state of grace (1 Cor 11:28). If you are in the state of grace, you can and should receive the Eucharist. If you are not, you should refrain from it. To do so would add another serious grievance referred to as the sin of sacrilege (1 Cor 11:27; CCC 1385). As you grow in the spiritual life, you will generally find it is easier to determine whether you have committed any mortal sins (1 Jn 3:19-24, 4:13). In the meantime, here is a quick lesson on what constitutes a mortal sin. A mortal sin is a grievous offense against God that deprives the sinner of sanctifying grace, which is the supernatural life of the soul (1 Jn 5:16-17; CCC 1855). It also makes the person an enemy of God, takes away the merits of one's good action done in a state of serious sin, and deprives one of the Sanctifying Grace necessary for salvation (Rom 1:18; Prv 15:9; CCC 1861). To commit a mortal (or deadly) sin, there are three conditions that must be present: (1) The thought, word, action, or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong. (2) The sinner needs to know that it is seriously wrong. (3) The sinner must give full consent of the will in choosing the sin (CCC 1857, 1874). — At our Holy Ghost Church, we have a confession guide available of the confession prayers and an examination of conscience, if you cannot locate it, ask for a copy). As you become more sensitive to God's laws (through prayer, study and frequent reception of the sacraments), you will know almost immediately when you have committed a serious offense. If in doubt, don't be afraid to consult your Confessor.

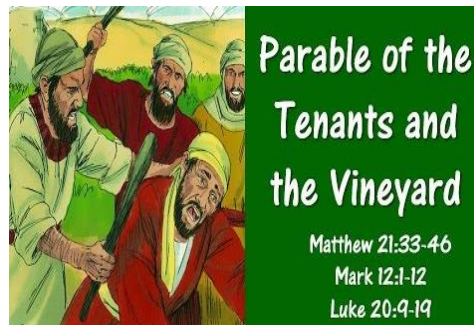


13th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Basil the Great Commentary

and Explanation of the Vineyard — Mt. 21:33-42

You need only to look at the vine to be reminded of your own nature, that is, if you observe it intelligently. No doubt you remember the image used by the Lord in which he says



that he is the vine and the Father the vinedresser. **Each of us who have been grafted onto the Church by faith he calls branches, and he urges us to bear much fruit so as not to be rejected as useless and thrown onto the fire.** Throughout the Scriptures the Lord continually likens human souls to vines. He says for instance: My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; and again: I planted a vineyard and put a

hedge round it. Clearly it is human souls that he calls his vineyard, and the hedge he has put round them is the security of his commandments and the protection of the angels; for the angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear him. Moreover, by establishing in the Church apostles in the first place, prophets in the second, and teachers in the third, he has surrounded us as though by a firmly planted palisade. In addition, the Lord has raised our thoughts to heaven by the examples of saints of past ages. He has kept them from sinking to the earth where they would deserve to be trampled on, and he wills that the bonds of love, like the tendrils of a vine, should attach us to our neighbors and make us rest on them, so that always climbing upward like vines growing on trees, we may reach the loftiest heights. **He also requires that we allow ourselves to be weeded. To be spiritually weeded means to have renounced the worldly ambitions that burdened our hearts.** Anyone who has renounced the love of material things and attachment to possessions, or who has come to regard as despicable and deserving of contempt the poor, wretched glory of this world, is like a weeded vine. Freed from the profitless burden of earthly aspirations, that person can breathe again. Finally, following out the implications of the comparison, we must not run to wood, or, in other words, show off or seek the praise of outsiders. Instead, we must bear fruit by reserving the display of our good works for the true vinedresser.

The Basic Understanding of this Parable

As stated in this passage, the religious leaders realize that Jesus is talking about them. They are the wicked tenants. Therefore, these leaders become very angry and want to arrest Jesus, but they cannot because they are afraid of the large crowd who would get upset if they did. As for the rest of the parable, the vineyard represents Israel. The owner represents God the Father. The servants sent by the owner represent the prophets that God has sent in the past, many of whom have been mistreated and even killed by Israel and its leaders. The son represents Jesus. When Jesus tells this parable, his main purpose is to tell the religious leaders what the reality of the situation is: God has placed them over Israel, but they (including past leaders) have been evil by mistreating his prophets. However, Jesus is also making a statement about himself in relation to God, since he is the son of the owner of the vineyard. He is even predicting his death at the hands of the religious leaders.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Saints of the Week

The Holy Martyrs Adrian & Natalia – Aug. 26

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married in their youth for one year prior to their martyrdom, and lived in Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). The



emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial. Then the denunciations began. Adrian, the head of the praetorium, watched as Christians suffered with such courage for their faith. Seeing how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, asked: “What rewards do you expect from your God for your suffering?” The martyrs replied: “Such rewards as we are not able to describe, nor can your mind comprehend.” St Adrian told the scribes, “Write my name down also, for I am a Christian and I die gladly for Christ God.” The scribes reported this to the emperor, who summoned St Adrian and asked: “Really, have you gone mad, that you want to die? Come, cross out your name from the lists and offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness.” St Adrian

answered: “I have not lost my mind, but rather have I found it.” Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, St Natalie, knowing that her husband was to suffer for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian. She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: **“You are blessed, my lord, because you have believed in Christ. You have obtained a great treasure. Do not regret anything earthly, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds are pleasing to God.”** They tortured St Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: “Let your gods say what blessings they promise me, and then I shall worship them, but if they cannot do this, then why should I worship them?” St Natalie did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to pray to God for her, that they would not force her into marriage with a pagan after his death. The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. St Natalie, fearing that her husband would hesitate on seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, asked the executioner to begin with him, and permit her to put his hands and legs on the anvil herself. They wanted to burn the bodies of the saints, but a storm arose and the fire went out. Many of the executioners even were struck by lightning. St Natalie took the hand of her husband and kept it at home. Soon an army commander asked the emperor’s approval to wed St Natalie, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium. St Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. The martyr, worn out by her former sufferings, in fact soon fell asleep in the Lord.

General Announcements

ARCHIEPARCHIAL DEACON ROBERT JONES TO BE ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD THIS WEEK —



In a recent announcement posted on Facebook, the following appeared: “It is with great joy and humility that I announce to you that Metropolitan-Archbishop William C. Skurla has called me to the presbyterate! The date of my ordination to the priesthood is set for **Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** This will take place at the chapel of our Saints. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary (3605 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214). Deacon Jones served a brief tenure here at (MR) Holy Ghost Church during the Covid-19 Summer 2020. He also co-presented a class with our Seminarian Luke Iyengar on the scriptural presentation of “Covenants” during the Great Fast 2020. May God grant to His servant, Deacon Robert, peace, health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L’ita!

BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS TODAY —



Following each of the Divine Liturgies **this weekend** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the actual and/or virtual Academic Year of 2021-2022 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. We wish to thank an anonymous parishioner for the treats to our teachers and students. God bless you!

PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS —

Our parishes have been opened and have been following the regular schedule of liturgical services. If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) and desire to return but are still unsure of its safety from the coronavirus, we assure you that there is plenty of room to extend physical distancing. However, if you would like the pastor to make a sacramental visitation ahead of your return, **please phone the parish office** and set a time when Father may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS ARE VITALLY ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul!



STILL AWAITING THE DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY RECORD BOOK FOR 2022 —

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.