

**Parish Offerings – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — September 12, 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 (\$1,509) YP (\$3) .....	\$1,512.00
Holy Days (\$213) YP (\$2) .....	215.00
Votive Candles .....	116.50
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	\$1,843.50

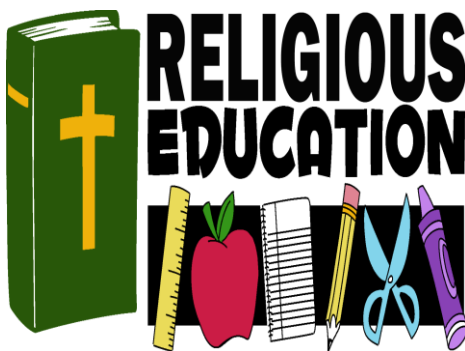
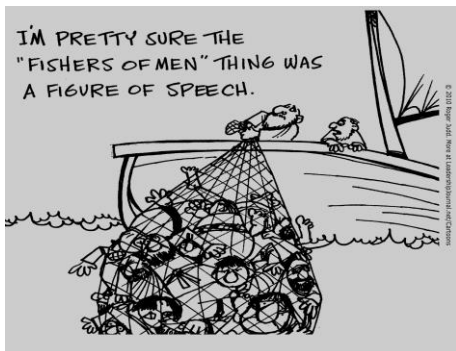
**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering .....	\$614.30
Holy Days .....	30.00
Votive Candles .....	57.50
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	\$701.80

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (33)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (52); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)

Universal Elevation of the Cross — Tues (MR) 9:00 a.m. (15); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (12)



**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
331-9713  
Fax: (412) 331-6688  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
*Ill Serving Yours Since 1953*



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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**

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

**THE 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross  
**September 19, 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 works, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**  
**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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).

Sept 19, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 38



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Dorothy Billy (birthday) Family  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Betty Mowery Dgtr: Barbara "Babs"

Mon, Sept 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Muska Family Gladys Muska & Family

#### Final Day for the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

Tues, Sept 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak Wife: Nancy & Family  
(birthday 9/16)

#### Autumn commences

Wed, Sept 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene + John Bednar Rippole Family  
(wed. ann. 9/13)

#### Conception of St. John the Baptist

Thrs, Sept 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dorothy Brooks Niece: Joan Senchyshyn  
(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing)

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

for the intention of world peace, stability of our Country & vanquishing of the coronavirus

Fri, Sept 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alexander F. Perschy Son: Kurt  
(12<sup>th</sup> ann. of passing)

Sat, Sept 25 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

#### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John Kundrat Wife: Theresa  
(31<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 9/23)



### 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Sept 26 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna A. Kohan Sister: Dolores & Ted Babin  
(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ethel M. (Karlock) Galida Dgtr: Kathy Mullen  
(12<sup>th</sup> ann. of passing 9/20)

# 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

Sept 20 – Dolores Babin, LEONARD KALLOP, JR., Laura Saber; Sept 22 – Margaret Nazak; Sept 23 – THERESA FITZURKA, TAMARA HARDING, Tam Revtai, Cecilla Rose Sclight; Sept 25 — CINDY MEADERS.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, 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, Margaret Cifrulak. Mildred Terrek.

#### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What are the standards choosing one priest to hear their confession over another? If a person goes to confession, but deliberately does not confess a sin by choice because of fear or anxiety, what should he do? On a similar note, if a person fails to confess a grave sin by accident, what should he do? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: People are allowed to avoid any confessor for any personal reason—including the embarrassment over a particular sin. No one is obliged to confess face to face. One is free to go to any parish he chooses for confession. If one deliberately chooses to withhold a mortal sin in confession, that in itself is a further mortal sin and the whole confession is invalid. If the Lord could suffer such agony on Good Friday to forgive our sins, the least we can do is humbly and honestly confess them. If one forgets to confess a mortal sin, that sin is still forgiven in confession, but the person is required to mention it the next time he goes to confession as an act of sorrow and contrition. It's the least we can do in the face of God's love for us.



## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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



September 19 — September 25, 2021

(MR): In memory of John Kundrat

offered by Wife: Theresa

(NS): In memory of Betty Mowery

(MR) Now available for 2022

offered by Dgtr: Barbara "Babs"

(NS) Now available for 2022

# McKees Rocks Announcements

**RENOVATIONS ON-GOING FOR CHURCH BASEMENT & GYM RESTROOMS —**  
The plumber was in this week.

## North Side Announcements

**GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED FORTHCOMING —** The weeds and bushes surrounding our Holy Ghost Church really need attention. We can't do it without your cooperation! We surely need your help this **Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.** To keep our grounds tidied encourages our neighbors to have civic pride and demonstrates that we care for God's Church and the important gift it is to the community. We need you!!! If you have any relatives needing extra credit for a scouting or school project, our pastor will be happy to sign a form for them. Please consider sacrificing two hours of your time in assisting us. Remember this is our Church and the need for all parishioners to assist us in this bi-annual activity!



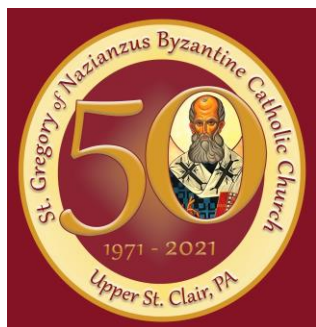
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## AUTUMN COMMENCES THIS WEEK

**Autumn**, interchangeably known as Fall in North America, is one of the four temperate seasons. Autumn marks the transition from summer into winter, in September (Northern Hemisphere) when the arrival of night becomes noticeably earlier and the temperature cools considerably. One of its main features is the shedding of leaves from deciduous trees. Autumn officially begins this Wednesday, September 22.



**DEANERY CHURCH CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY TODAY —** A church within our Protoperbytery is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this afternoon. St. Gregory Nazianzus Byzantine Catholic Church, Upper St. Clair, is observing its Golden Anniversary. Archbishop Skurla will be the principal celebrant at a 3:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy. Our pastor will be concelebrating as the protoperbyter. Fr. Valerian Michlik is the pastor. To Fr. Michlik and all the parishioners of St. Gregory Church, Both of our Holy Ghost Parishes pray that God grant you health and happiness for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



**AREA PAPER SHREDDING & MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENT —** State Representative Dan Deasy and State Senator Wayne Fontana are co-hosting this event. It will take place at Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Church (Beechview) 1000 Tropical Avenue, Pittsburgh 15216 this **Saturday, September 25, 2021** from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (or until shred truck is full). This is a **FREE EVENT.**

## Catechism Lesson on the Holy Eucharist

*(The following article appeared on the Catholic Answers webpage, September 15, 2016. It has been abridged to fit into the space of this page. This article is printed with permission.)*

The Holy Eucharist is the most important of the seven sacraments because, in this and in no other sacrament, we receive the very body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ.



Innumerable, precious graces come to us through the reception of Holy Communion.... Because of the gravity of Jesus' teaching on receiving the Eucharist, the Church encourages Catholics to receive frequent Communion, even daily Communion if possible, and mandates reception of the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season. Before going to Communion, however, there are several things one needs to know. **First,**

you must be in a state of grace. *"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup"* (1 Cor. 11:27–28). This is an absolute requirement which can never be dispensed. **To receive the Eucharist without sanctifying grace in your soul profanes the Eucharist in the most grievous manner.** A mortal sin is any sin whose matter is grave, and which has been committed willfully and with knowledge of its seriousness. Grave matter includes, but is not limited to, murder, receiving or participating in an abortion, homosexual acts, having sexual intercourse outside of marriage or in an invalid marriage, and deliberately engaging in impure thoughts (Matt. 5:28–29). Scripture contains lists of mortal sins (for example, 1 Cor. 6:9–10 and Gal. 5:19–21). For further information on what constitutes a mortal sin, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church (which includes the Precepts of the Church). Out of habit and out of fear of what those around them will think if they do not receive Communion, some Catholics, in a state of mortal sin, choose to go forward and offend God rather than stay in the pew while others receive the Eucharist. The Church's ancient teaching on this particular matter is expressed in the Didache, an early Christian document written around A.D. 70, which states: *"Whosoever is holy [i.e., in a state of sanctifying grace], let him approach. Whosoever is not, let him repent"* (Didache 10). **Second,** you must have been to confession since your last mortal sin. The Didache witnesses to this practice of the early Church. *"But first make confession of your faults, so that your sacrifice may be a pure one"* (Didache 14). **Third,** you must believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation. *"For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself"* (1 Cor. 11:29). Transubstantiation means more than the Real Presence. According to transubstantiation, the bread and wine are actually transformed into the actual body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ, with only the appearances of bread and wine remaining. **Fourth,** you must observe the Eucharistic fast. Canon law states, **"One who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion."** Elderly people, those who are ill, and their caretakers are excused from the Eucharistic fast. **Finally,** one must not be under an ecclesiastical censure. Canon law mandates, "Those who are excommunicated or interdicted after the imposition or declaration of the penalty and others who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion". **Provided they are in a state of grace and have met the above requirements, Catholics should receive the Eucharist frequently.**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 19 ..... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year  
October 1 ..... Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.  
(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
Oct 3-7 ..... Annual Archieparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochian Retreat Center, Ligonier.

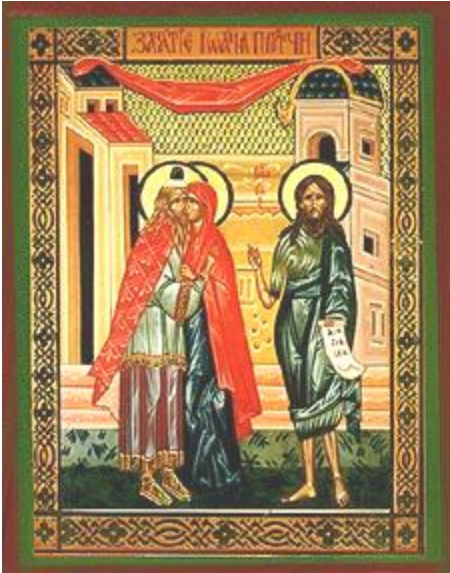
## Saint of the Day This Week

### Conception of St. John the Baptist

September 23

The Conception of the Venerable Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The holy Prophet Malachi prophesied that before the Messiah's birth His Forerunner would appear, and would indicate His coming. The Jews therefore in awaiting the Messiah also awaited the appearance of His Forerunner. In a city of the hills of Judea in the land of Palestine lived the righteous priest St Zachariah and his wife St Elizabeth, zealously observing the commandments of the Lord. The couple, however, had a misfortune: they remained childless in their old age, and they prayed unceasingly to God to grant them a child. Once, when St Zachariah took his turn as priest at the Temple of Jerusalem, he went into the Sanctuary to offer incense. Going behind the veil of the Sanctuary, he beheld an angel of God standing at the right side of the altar of incense. St

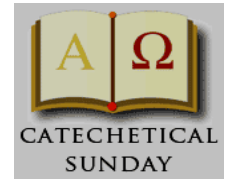
Zachariah was astonished and halted in fear, but the angel said to him, "Fear not, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." But Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly messenger, and then the angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you the good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words...." Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah and they were astonished that he had not come out from the Sanctuary after so long a time. And when he did come out, he was supposed to pronounce a blessing upon the people, but could not do so because he had been struck speechless. When Zachariah explained by gestures that he was unable to speak, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The prophecy of the Archangel was fulfilled, and Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness, and gave birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.



## General Announcements

### COMMENCEMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & COMMISSIONING CATECHETICS

**TODAY** — The commencement of our 2021-2022 Catechetical Educational Year follows the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. All Catechists will be commissioned in a short ceremonial program and receive a blessing to go "forth in peace." Our Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.) Program is vital to the spiritual formation of our youth. Parents, please see that your children are enrolled in this program. Religious Education is important if any young teen-ager (14 and over) is asked to be a sponsor for Baptism and/or Chrismation (Confirmation). If you have any questions, please contact Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.



### RESERVATIONS FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS — Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary



Lamp reservation dates are being taken on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both areas only two weekends of each will be accepted. When the demand subsides, you will be able to reserve additional weekend dates. Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend (per candle/DL) in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and place it in the collection basket. You may reserve unlimited weekday DL's! Please take care of this matter quickly to acquire your special dates.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: A COME & SEE WEEKEND** — Young men 18-25 are invited to a FREE retreat, Friday through Saturday, **November 5-7, 2021** at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary. *The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest.* No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense involved in participating in this retreat. The seminary mandates that all participants are fully vaccinated. Contact the Seminary: (412) 321-8383. **Deadline for registration is October 13.**



### AREA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH RECEIVE TERRIOTS THREAT



It was reported on Pittsburgh News Stations this past week, that an area Byzantine Catholic Church received terroristic threats last Sunday. Police evacuated **St. John Church, Pittsburgh (Greenfield district)** just before noon. Police reported that a man made threats to the church, its congregant and himself. He also allegedly told officers he had multiple firearms. Police discovered no credible threat inside the church. As of Monday evening, no arrests have been made, but police say that they will continue to investigate.

Also, Police launched an investigation at **St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, Northside**, when parishioners saw a congregant openly carrying a gun on his hip during the church service. The man had a permit, and the gun was not stolen. **Please note: Please keep your eyes open for any suspicious activity while attending the Divine Liturgy. Report it to one of the ushers discreetly or directly to Fr. Firko by coming to the front of the church and get his attention. It's better to be safe than sorry!**