

Parish Offerings – 17th Sunday after Pentecost — September 19, 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 (\$1,363) YP (\$7)	\$1,370.00
Holy Days (\$212) YP (\$2)	214.00
Radio Ministry (Wedding Ann of Barbara & Lee Feldman)	25.00
Votive Candles	124.50
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	\$1,733.50

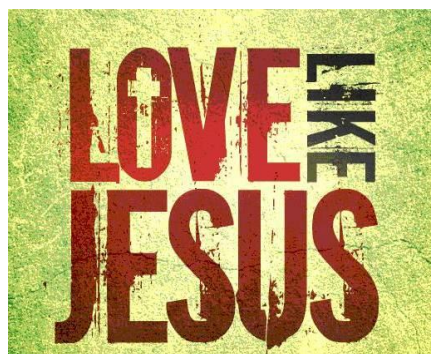
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$795.00
Holy Days	25.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvement (\$10)	20.00
Votive Candles	56.00

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

 \$896.00

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (58); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)



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



DESIGNS BY NANCY
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greetings, get-well
wishes, etc. Call the
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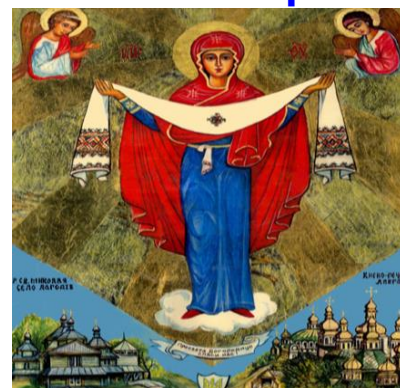
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

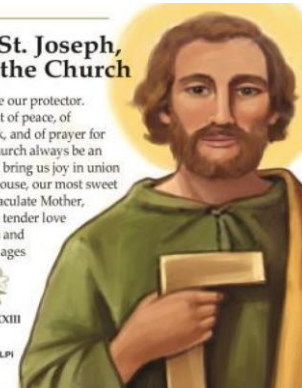
September 26, 2021



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 Mystery 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.

Carpetho-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 26, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 39



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

18th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Sept 26	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna A. Kohan (40 th day of passing)	Sister: Dolores & Ted Babin
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Ethel M. (Karlo) Galida (12 th ann. of passing 9/20)	Dgr: Kathy Mullen
Mon, Sept 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Frank Mazur	Razo Family
	Our Venerable Father Chariton the Confessor		
Tues, Sept 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Julie Ann Bersavage	Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz
Wed, Sept 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Gramata (67 th ann of passing)	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
Thrs, Sept 30	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula (4 th ann of passing 9/29)	Zula Family

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Patroness of the Metropolitan Providence — Solemn Holy Day

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

First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

FRI, OCT 1	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	+ Mary Frances Pungras	Sister: Anna Demianczyk

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

Sat, Oct 2	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Lucy + John Holesh	Dgr: Nancy & Family
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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Mark A. Cifrutlak	Bro: Burt & Nanine
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19th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Oct 3	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ John Spontak (18 th ann. of passing 10/2)	Son: Robert & Joyce

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 29 – Kayla Marks; Oct 1 – Nanine Cifrutlak, Frank Grzywiniski, Steven Krempasky, KIMBERLY VALERIANO; Oct 2 – BETTY LORINC.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, 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 Cifrutlak, Mildred Terrek.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. My siblings and I were raised in a good Catholic home but now, as adults, we no longer all share the same moral code—some follow authentic Catholic Church doctrine while others rationalize that their immoral lifestyles are actually moral. Any time I try to help family members, I'm viewed as an intolerant religious freak. Even my parents consider my efforts to be out of line and hurtful. A. Catholic Answers Apologist: You have an obligation to raise your children in the truth, teaching them genuine morals. This may mean unrest in your family, as you have already seen. But it may comfort you to know that Jesus recognized family division would sometimes be an issue for those who remain faithful to him: Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (Mt 10:34-38)



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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



September 26 — October 2, 2021

(MR): In memory of Robert Kundrat (17th ann of passing 9/18)

offered by Mother: Theresa

(NS): In memory of Thomas F. Zon (3rd ann of passing 10/5)

(MR) Now available for 2022 offered by Sister-in-law: Theresa Fitzurka (NS) Now available for 2022

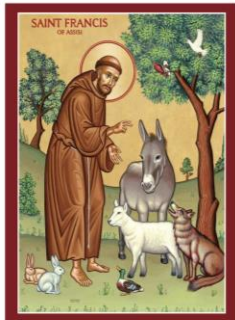
McKees Rocks Announcements

RENOVATIONS ON-GOING FOR CHURCH BASEMENT & GYM RESTROOMS — The new panels were installed this past week in all four of the restrooms. If you need to use the facilities, please continue to use the handicap rest room.

North Side Announcements

GROUNDS CLEANUP SLATED CANCELLED YESTERDAY — Since many had a previous commitment, we had to cancel the Fall grounds cleaning. Hopefully, we will be able to reschedule.

ANOTHER DEANERY CHURCH CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY TODAY — For the second straight week, a church within our Protopresbytery is celebrating its 125th anniversary this afternoon. SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Braddock, is observing its Milestone Anniversary. Archbishop Skurla will be the principal celebrant at a 3:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy. Our pastor will be concelebrating as the protopresbyter. Fr. Vatalii Stashkevych is the pastor. To Fr. Stashkevych and all the parishioners of SS. Peter & Paul 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!



Blessing of the Animals

BLESSING OF ANIMALS FORTHCOMING — Since our pets are very dear to us, our pastor will beseech God to shower blessings upon them. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, (Feast Day, Oct. 4), who loved animals and often spoke to them, and whose feast is at the beginning of October, our pastor is inviting you to bring your pets for a short blessing serving on **Friday, October 8, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. at the (MR) Church's side entrance.** This blessing signifies our gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of companionship that our pets afford us.

SPECIAL FRIDAY & SPECIAL SATURDAY THIS WEEK — This week is the First



Friday and First Saturday of the month. The Church has for many years asked us to make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the First Friday. We do so by worthily approaching and receiving Holy Communion for nine consecutive months; First Saturdays are reserved for making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on five consecutive Saturdays of each month; we must

also make a good Confession, receive Holy Communion, meditate on the 15 Mysteries for 15 minutes and to receive Holy Communion. Let us fulfill these requirements and console Jesus and Mary, the Theotokos.

17th Sunday after Pentecost

A Preposterous Request — LK 5:1-11

It all started with the Lord's preposterous request. He said to Simon, "Put out into the



deep water and let down your nets for a catch." What's so out of line about that? Three things! **First**, anybody knows that the best net fishing is done at night when the fish can't see the net in the dark—not in broad daylight. **Second**, the fishermen had just come in from fishing all night, having caught nothing. Obviously the fish were somewhere else. **Third**, now their nets were all cleaned from their night's work. It was a messy job to clean those nets of seaweed and scum. Besides, these fishermen were tired and discouraged. Who wants to start out on

the day shift right after finishing a long night shift? What Jesus asked was beyond all reason and all fishing experience. How would Peter respond? Here's how he did respond. "Master," he began. So far, so good. This seems to imply complete obedience. But then Peter protested, "We have worked all night long but have caught nothing." Peter was sitting on the fence. On the one hand, he wanted to obey Jesus. On the other hand, he knew that it was utter foolishness. Something about Jesus struck Peter as different from any other person he had ever met. He heard promises more beautiful than the bewitching charm of blue Galilee, sparkling in the morning sun. All of a sudden something snapped in Peter's heart. He jumped off the fence on the side of obedience, saying to Jesus, **"Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."** At that precise point, Peter surrendered the keys of his life to Jesus—all the keys, including the master key. It was an electric encounter on the shore between the Carpenter and the fisherman. The base essence of Peter's reply was, "You say . . . I will." That was an obedient surrender of the keys based on an implicit trust in Jesus. James, John and others followed Peter in heading out for the deep. After the Lord's preposterous request followed his fantastic gift. These fishermen netted a whopping catch. They had never seen a catch like that. Their net almost broke; their boats almost sank, and they hardly had enough men to haul in the fish. They were astounded that it happened in broad daylight. God was saying in language that fishermen understand what amazing things can happen when the keys of a life are surrendered to Jesus. It illustrated the truth that God never ask of us anything, no matter how costly, but what he gives us back a hundred times more. The Twenty-third Psalm puts it in these words, "My cup runneth over." We ask God for a grain of sand and he gives us a whole beach. **God always gives far more than either we desire or deserve, according to our trust in him.**

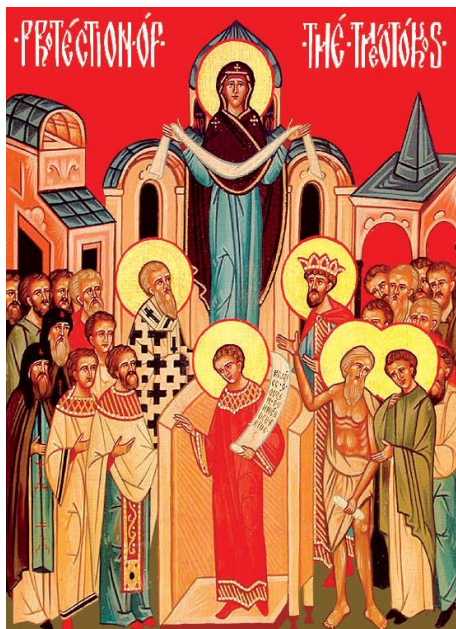
Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1 Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
(MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
October 1,8,15,22 & 29 (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.
Oct 3-7 Annual Archieparchial Clergy Retreat at Antiochian Retreat Center, Ligonier.
October 8 Blessing of animals @ 7:00 p.m.

SOLEMN HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

Thursday, **Oct. 1**, we celebrate the feast day of the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae (Vlaherna) in the tenth century. At the end of St.

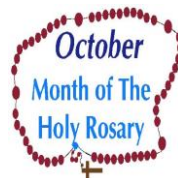


Andrew also known as a “fool for Christ,” along with his disciple St. Epiphanius, and a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae, nearby the city gates. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of her relics were kept. The relics were her robe, veil, and part of her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the fifth century. The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt down and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. During the time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After

the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering. The Protection is commemorated most fervently in Slavic churches, probably because St. Andrew was a Slav. The first celebration of the Theotokos's Protection in the Eastern Slavic Churches dates back from the 12th century and today is celebrated throughout the Byzantine Catholic Church. The feast day commemorating the miracle is celebrated with an All-Night Vigil, with many of the same elements as occur on Great Feasts of the Theotokos. However, this feast has no post-festive. ***This feast is of particular importance to the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh because 47 years ago October 6, 1974, Metropolitan Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko along with the bishops of Passaic and Parma consecrated the entire metropolitan province to her heavenly protection at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.***

General Announcements

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY — At the request of several parishioners to honor Our Blessed Mother in this special month of October, the Rosary according to our Byzantine-Ruthenian (Rusyn) tradition will be prayed **each Friday throughout the month @ 6:30 p.m.** at our Parish in McKees Rocks. This sacred devotion has been a part of our Church since its founding over 100 years ago which our Founders and Benefactors brought with them from Carpathian Homeland. Come and join us as we pray for our Country & for the vanquishing of the coronavirus.



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.**



ARCHIEPARICHAL ST. NICHOLAS 50/50 RAFFLE — Since many will not be able to attend



the **65th Annual St. Nicholas Celebration** at the Cathedral and Cathedral Center on **Sunday, December 5, 2021**, a minimal number of tickets (17) from GCU Headquarters have been sent to each parish in order to acquire additional capital for the Seminary. Very little profit is made from the dinner

tickets themselves. To help subsidize this charity event, please support this worthy cause by purchasing a ticket. Each Parish is requested to sell at least 17 tickets. **They are \$10.00** and the first 3-digit number based on the Monday, **December 6, 2021** PA Daily Drawing at 7:00 p.m. Many prizes will be awarded. Tickets are now available.

MESSAGE FROM GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE — *Attention all members. I would like all members to attend a special virtual meeting **October 10, 2021 @ 2:00** to discuss a Christmas fundraiser. 1 (605) 472-5351, Access Code: 451303#. Steve Pulka will be sending literature via e-mail to everyone on his list. If you do not have an e-mail please contact Steve @ (412) 897-465 for printed literature. Thank you, Tina Burns, president.*