

Parish Offerings – 28th Sunday after Pentecost – December 5, 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 (\$3,224) YP (\$6)	\$3,230.00
Holy Days (\$235) Thanksgiving (\$60)	295.00
Christmas (\$20) Christmas Décor (\$505)	525.00
Votive Candles	129.50
	\$4,179.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$793.00
Thanksgiving (\$50) Christmas (\$5) Improvement (\$50)	105.00
Special Donation (In mem of Anna & John Mammay by Tina Burns)	105.00
Votive Candles (\$34.50) Christmas Décor (\$60)	94.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,097.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (80); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)

Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas — Mon, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10), (NS) 6:00 p.m. (13)

Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception — Wed. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (14)



IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM.



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF THE O.T. FOREFATHERS

4th Sunday of the Philippian Fast — December 12, 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
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Ill Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY
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Nancde@aol.com

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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.

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!



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



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).

Dec 12, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 50



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

Sunday of the Old Testament Forefathers

4th Sunday of the Philippian Fast


Our Lady of Guadalupe

SUN., Dec 12 (28) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Cantor: John Fejka Dgtr: Susie
(13th ann of passing 12/16)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Nicholas Senchyshyn (birthday 12/16) Dgtr: Joan

Mon, Dec 13 (29) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Kundrat, Jr. Theresa Kundrat
(36th ann of passing)

Tue, Dec, 14 (30) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anne Zurawski Maria, Sem. Luke & Anita Iyengar

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of the return of our beloved back to God and His Church

Wed, Dec 15 (31) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Bednar  Rippole Family

Thrs, Dec 16 (32) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy Son: Kurt
(19th ann of passing)

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of the return of our beloved back to God and His Church

Fri, Dec 17 (33) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Florence Kraly Zula Family
(12th ann of passing 12/16)

Sat, Dec 18 (34) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Old Testament Holy Fathers

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Nicholas Terrek (birthday 12/19) Wife: Mildred & Family

Sunday of the Old Testament Holy Fathers

5th and Final Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN., Dec 19 (35) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention Christine & Al Barnash
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Shirley + Robert Yanosko Dgtr: Ruth

3:00 p.m. Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions)

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

Birthdays: Dec 12 – Florence Charochak; Dec 13 – Nicholas Harsh; Dec 14 – CHRISTOPHER MEADERS, Steven Puluka, Roberta Rubish; Dec 18 – Diane Kosko, Lauren Kovacs, John Oslick

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Tim Kacsur, Dolores Kosko, Steve Kosko, BETTY LORINC, OLGA MANFREDO, Joseph Mitro, 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. In light of the ecumenism following Vatican II, are Catholics now under serious obligation (that is, binding under pain of sin) to skip Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) once in a while and worship instead at non-Catholic churches? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: "Required"? "Not allowed," you mean! A Catholic may *not* "worship instead at non-Catholic churches." To do so is to violate the First Commandment. (This is to be distinguished from engaging in, say, an ecumenical prayer service.) It is mandatory, under pain of mortal sin but allowing for exceptions arising from necessity, for every Catholic to attend Mass (Divine Liturgy) every Sunday (or Saturday evening) and on holy days. Catholics are under *no* obligation to attend non-Catholic services. Such visits are purely voluntary and may be undertaken so long as no scandal is given. Vatican II's *Directory on Ecumenism* allows some participation at such services in common responses or hymns that are not in variance with the Catholic Faith.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

December 12 — December 18, 2021

(MR): In memory of Cantor John Fejka

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS): In memory of Nicholas Senchyshyn

(MR) Now available for 2022

offered by Dgtr: Joan

(NS) Now available for 2022

McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT'S WEEK — *This Friday: Dec 17 will be the final sale prior to Christmas* The sale price for Potato/Cheese, Sauerkraut, and Farmer's Cheese are \$12.00 per dozen which includes butter and onions. We would appreciate more volunteers especially pinchers for this busy and final sales! **Remember, all orders must be placed on the Wednesday prior to the sale date between 9:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon. You are encouraged to place your Christmas orders now. Call the Pirohi Kitchen: (412) 331-5155.** Pirohi Workers are cordially invited to the Golden Corral, Robinson, on Tuesday, December 28th @ 12:00 noon. Please sign the sheet located in the gym work area.



North Side Announcements

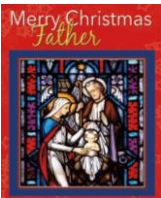
SANCTUARY LAMPS STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2022 — Although we have almost filled all slots for the McKees Rocks Church, there are still plenty remaining for our parish here on the Northside. In order to meet the invoice in January for these special candles, we have to reserve all weeks throughout 2022. If anyone is interested in having these special candles (made of olive oil and beeswax) that officially burn before the true presence of Lord's silent and hidden Eucharistic Presence, now is the time to reserve them. The stipend per candle remains \$10.00. Please place your offering in a white envelope with your intention and who is making the request. This devotion is opened to anyone interested



CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER — The Church cannot operate very well if it weren't for volunteers! To show appreciation for all who volunteered in some aspect of parish life throughout 2021, a **Parish Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township** will be held on **Thursday, December 30, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.** This includes all Altar Servers, Ushers, Cantors, Readers, Office Personnel, Collection Counters, Church & Rectory Cleaners and Decorators, Altar Cover changers, Catechists, Radio Ministry, etc. This Dinner also includes all Pirohi Workers who will not be able to attend their luncheon buffet. A list is now located in the (MR) vestibule, and (NS) Narthex of the Church. *Final day for signing Sunday, December 26.*



SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD TO OUR RETIRED AND ILL PRIESTS — Although you may not know them, they will surely appreciate a remembrance: (1) Former (MR) pastor, **Fr. Robert Karl**, 235 Logan Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044; (2) Former (NS) pastor **Monsignor Peter Tay**, 1200 San Pedro, Pittsburgh, PA 15212; and (3) Former pastor, (MR) **Monsignor Russell A. Duker**, 111 Perryment Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Let them know that you are from Holy Ghost Church.



Come O Jesus Our Savior, Redeem and Save Us! Christmas Schedule Listed in Calendar of Events

Meditation on Today's Gospel

The way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored — Lk. 14:16-24

This familiar parable of the **Banquet** is proclaimed in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His coming. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God/man Jesus Christ comes into the world. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us. However, there were some who refused this invitation, considering their own affairs to be more important or more desirable than the feast of the King. Although God had chosen them, they did not choose God. Is this not like our first parents Adam and Eve? They too were chosen by God but they did not choose God and so were cast out of paradise. But our Creator, not willing to abandon His creation, prepared a way that we might return to Him. This preparation covered



centuries and millennia of time; it was defined by the law and prophets. The Way that God prepared for us to return to Him is in fact the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself taking human flesh and dwelling among us. Just as through Adam all men fell into sin and corruption and death, now through Jesus Christ all men were invited to rise out of that condemnation and live again according to the love and grace of God. The Way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored. We had again been chosen by God. But some refused, instead choosing to follow their own desires. If we have refused may we now return to the Lord with our whole heart!

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE CONCLUDES THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Brothers and Sisters: On this conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph (Dec. 8), we now reflect on Saint Matthew's description of Joseph as both "a just man" and as "the husband of Mary". As a devout son of Israel, Joseph willingly submitted to the requirements of the Law and its precepts concerning marriage. Having learned that Mary was already with child, out of love and regard for her Joseph sought to spare her the humiliation of a public separation. Then, in a dream, Joseph learned from an angel that it was right that he should marry Mary, since she had conceived her son by the power of the Holy Spirit. **By God's providence, Joseph came to a deeper understanding of divine justice and its authentic demands.** Joseph and Mary's openness to God's saving plan brings their love to a maturity expressed in the virtues of chastity, fidelity, respect and humility. Far from restricting our freedom, these virtues in fact give our love direction and endurance. In this sense, Joseph and Mary can serve as an example not only to young people engaged to be married, but to all of us, who also in the midst of life's inevitable challenges, are called to discover the true joy and freedom that come from trusting in God's just and providential concern for our lives.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 19 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students following the DL.
 Special Holy Mystery of Reconciliation time for all — (MR) 3:00 pm.
 December 24 (MR) 8:00 am Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 pm Vespers w/DL of St. Basil the Great.
8:00 p.m. (MR) Great Compline followed by Christmas Carols; 9:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy.
December 25 . 9:00 a.m. (MR) Christmas Divine Liturgy; 11:00 a.m. (NS) Christmas Divine Liturgy.
****** NO 4:00 PM ANTICIPATED SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY ON SATURDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY ******

 December 26 2nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m.. (NS) 11:00 am.
 December 27 3rd Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen . (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 pm.
 December 31 New Year's Day Anticipated: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (NS) 6:00 pm.
 January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 am.

Saints of the Week — December 13

The Holy Martyr Eustratius at Sebaste & His Companions

The Holy Martyrs **Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes** (the Five Companions) suffered for Christ under the emperor Diocletian (284-305) at Sebaste, in Armenia. Among the first Christians imprisoned and undergoing torture at that time was Saint Auxentius, a presbyter of the Arabian Church. One of those who witnessed the steadfastness of the Christians was the noble military commander Saint Eustratius, the city prefect of Satalios, and archivist of the province. He was secretly a Christian, and when he openly confessed his faith, he was subjected to torture. They beat him, and put iron sandals studded with sharp nails on his feet, then forced him to march to the city of Arabrak. Witnessing the arrival of Saint Eustratius in Arabrak, one of the common people, Saint Mardarius, confessed that he was also a Christian like Saint Eustratius. He was arrested and cast into prison. Holes were drilled in his ankles, and ropes were passed them. He was suspended upside down, then heated nails were hammered into his body. He died a short time later. To him is attributed the prayer "O Master Lord God, Father Almighty ..." (which is read at the end of the Third Hour). As for Saint Eugene, they ripped out his tongue, they cut off his hands and feet, and then they beheaded him with a sword. Saint Auxentius was also arrested and beheaded. The young soldier Saint Orestes confessed himself a Christian and stood trial for this "crime." He was sentenced to be stretched out upon a red-hot iron bed, and became frightened when he approached it. Encouraged by Saint Eustratius, he made the Sign of the Cross and got onto the heated bed, where he surrendered his soul to God. Saint Eustratius was sentenced to be burned alive on December 13. As he was being led to his death, he prayed aloud ("I magnify Thee exceedingly, O Lord, for You have regarded my lowliness...")



Eustratius. He was arrested and cast into prison. Holes were drilled in his ankles, and ropes were passed them. He was suspended upside down, then heated nails were hammered into his body. He died a short time later. To him is attributed the prayer "O Master Lord God, Father Almighty ..." (which is read at the end of the Third Hour). As for Saint Eugene, they ripped out his tongue, they cut off his hands and feet, and then they beheaded him with a sword. Saint Auxentius was also arrested and beheaded. The young soldier Saint Orestes confessed himself a Christian and stood trial for this "crime." He was sentenced to be stretched out upon a red-hot iron bed, and became frightened when he approached it. Encouraged by Saint Eustratius, he made the Sign of the Cross and got onto the heated bed, where he surrendered his soul to God. Saint Eustratius was sentenced to be burned alive on December 13. As he was being led to his death, he prayed aloud ("I magnify Thee exceedingly, O Lord, for You have regarded my lowliness...")

General Announcements

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FORE-FATHERS CELEBRATED TODAY —



This is the Sunday that falls between December 11-17, the second Sunday before the Nativity. We commemorate the FOREFATHERS of Christ according to the flesh who are remembered on this **4th Sunday and 28th Day of the Philippiian Fast**. All the great Fathers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elijah and Daniel, and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah, Joachim and Anne, Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist and The Theotokos. They lived before the Law and under the

Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18). *Let us keep company with Mary and Joseph on the journey to Bethlehem as we contemplate our place at the banquet with the Holy Fore-Fathers. Through prayer, abstinence, almsgiving of mercy, and frequent confession of sins, and attendance at Divine Liturgies we are empowered to follow the journey to this end.*

SPECIAL TIMES FOR THE HOLY MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION NEXT WEEKEND —



Special Confession times has been arranged to the following days & times to accommodate making a good Confession prior to Our Lord's Holy Nativity. **NS - Friday, December 17, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. & MR - Sunday, December 19, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.** *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy Confession. Also, Confessions are available at the regular times as indicted on the front of the S.O.T. Church Bulletin. A special guide is provided for you to examine your conscience and can be picked up in the side vestibule & narthex. **Prepare your soul to be the New Bethlehem and your heart to be a fitting Manger for Our Lord on Christmas Day!***

ARCHIEPARCHIAL CHOIR "CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL" —

The AC invites you to share the spirit and joy of the Nativity season as they present "20 years of Christmas Harmony." This annual choral event takes place **Sunday, December 19, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.** at the Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall. Following the sing-along finale, a hospitality reception with refreshments and Christmas treats will be held in the lower level of the Cathedral. Let us support the Choir, since some of our parishioners are members. **Can't attend in person? Tune in at 2:00 pm Sunday Dec. 19 to the Cathedral's LIVE webcast of the PBCAC's Christmas program online at www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com/cathedral/live**



2022 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX —



Your *2022 Contribution Envelopes* will be ready for pickup today. **Please look for your name and not your current number.** If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office. **Please do not use your 2022 until January!** *If you have not contributed in two years, you will have to call the church office to be reinstated.*

This helps us to keep costs down. Again, we wish to thank and ask God's blessings on the **Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home and Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home** for sponsoring our new year calendars.