

**Parish Offerings – O.T. HOLY FATHERS SUNDAY – December 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 (\$2,422) YP (\$4) .....	\$2,426.00
Christmas (\$425) Holy Days (\$76) .....	501.00
Christmas Décor .....	16.00
Votive Candles .....	122.51
	<hr/>
	\$3,065.51

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering .....	\$954.65
Christmas (\$50) Utilities (\$25) .....	75.00
Special Donation (In mem of Michael Sotak, Jr by Wife: Jane) .....	50.00
Votive Candles .....	52.40

**Church Attendance Last Week \$1,132.05**

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (22)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (38)



**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*

**Jesus is the greatest gift of all! Merry Christmas!**

**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**

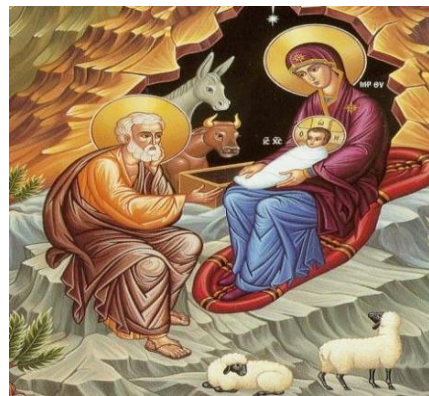
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**The Synaxis of the Theotokos**

Righteous Joseph, King David & Apostle James, relative of the Lord  
December 26, 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](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.
---	--	--

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!

# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

O Joseph, announce to David, forefather of Christ, the good news of these wonders you have seen: A Virgin giving birth to a Child; with shepherds you have glorified Him; with the Magi you have worshipped Him; and an angel appeared to you. Beg Christ to save our souls (Troparion of the Synaxis Feast).

December 26, 2021 Christmas Christian Greeting: Volume XI, Number 52



(Dec. 24 through Jan. 4):  
**Christ is Born! — Glorify Him!**  
**Christos Razdajetsja! — Slavite Jeho!**



## Sunday After Christmas — 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas

Commemorating the Righteous Joseph, King David & Apostle James

**SUN, Dec 26** 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ethel M. (Karlock) Galida Dgr: Kathy Mullen

## FEAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLE, PROTO-MARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN — 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Christmas

Mon, Dec 27 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Darko S. Gataric Family



Tue, Dec 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George  
 (10<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

Wed, Dec 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak Kulka & Wickline Families

Thurs, Dec 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Jude Bodnar Anonymous



Fri, Dec 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Onesi Family  
*Final Day of the Nativity Feast*



\*\*\*\*\*  
 DL of St. Basil for Feast of Circumcision & Feast of St. Basil the Great — New Year's Day

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary Agnes Kress Son: William & Kathe  
 (12 ann of passing)



## FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD & FEAST OF ST. BASIL

New Year's Day 2022 — Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Prayer for World Peace

Sat, Jan 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for Sunday before the Enlightenment

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Hubal + Bradley + Stefanick Families Hubal Family

## Sunday before the Enlightenment

SUN, Jan 2 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Lester G. Best (1<sup>st</sup> ann of pass) Br. Regis, OFM

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

# 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 26 – George Lucas, Elisa Uram; Dec 27 – Nickolas Kotik; Dec 29 – Evelyn Yakubik; Dec 31 – Calahan Bedard, David Bubalo; Jan 1 – Elaine Cassidy.

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


**HOME:** Margaret Beliunas, 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.** A friend tells me that Jesus was probably born in the summer. How do I explain to her the reason the Church celebrates Christmas on December 25? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** As we do not know the exact date of Christ's birth, the date of December 25 for Christmas may have been arbitrary. The Church could have chosen another date on which to celebrate the birth of Christ. One reason December 25 may have been deemed suitable is its proximity to the winter solstice. After that date the days start to become longer, and thus it is at the beginning of a season of light entering the world (cf. John 1:5). The summer solstice—after which the days start to get shorter—falls near June 24, on which the Church celebrates the birth of John the Baptist, who declared of Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).




## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

# December 26 — January 1, 2022

(MR): **In memory of Mark A. Cifrulak**  
 offered by Wife: Nancy & Dgtrs: Lisa & Stacie

(NS): **In memory of Living & Deceased of Chesmar Family**  
 (MR) Now available for 2022 offered by David S. Chesmar, Jr. (NS) Now available for 2022





# McKees Rocks Announcements

**A NOTE FROM THE AREA MEALS-ON-WHEELS** — We have just received a letter of gratitude for our parochial donation collected from your contribution envelopes 'for the poor': "Reverend Firko & (MR) Holy Ghost Parishioners, the Staff and volunteers of the Sto-Ken-Rox Meals-On-Wheels thank you so very much for your generous Christmas donation of \$409.50 to the M-O-W Program. We greatly appreciate your help and concern to serve the needy in our community. May God's blessing and peace to all of you in the New Year,"— Carol Vevers, Treasurer.



# North Side Announcements

**BASEMENT FLOODED IN PARISH RECTORY BASEMENT HAS BEEN REPAIRED** — Matt Mertz Plumbing snaked the lines clearing the problem. The problem was dry toilet debris caked restricting the follow of bathroom water. The total cost was \$150.00. Your improvement donation in the contribution box made it possible to take care of this project.



**SPECIAL THANKS FOR DONATION** — Our Parish is very grateful to the recent and generous contribution of \$1,000.00 from parishioner, John Vereb, who is residing at the Veterans Hospital, Aspinwall. John is an avid listener to the Sunday Divine Liturgy on radio. He loves his Byzantine Catholic Church. Part of the contribution will be directed for the continuing Radio Ministry Apostolate. God bless you, John, and may He grant you many happy and blessed years. Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

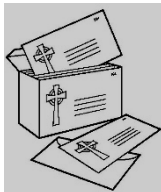
\*\*\*\*\*

**2022 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX** — Your 2022 Contribution Envelopes are ready for pickup. 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.



\*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE WRITE AMOUNT ON YOUR ENVELOPES** — Often times when our devoted Counters are dealing with several different envelopes (Sundays, Holy Days, Special Collections, etc.) it is possible that a donation slips by without a written amount indicated on the envelope. Would you please help us by placing the amount on your envelope?!? Often we receive an envelope with nothing inside. **Be sure that your check is signed with the new year marked.** Place the contribution with all envelopes or at least the front portion of each envelope with check(s) attached. This helps our bookkeeping to credit your account properly.



# Christmas Story Continues

## The Flight into Egypt — GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23

As we commemorate the flight into Egypt as we did on the day following Christmas. The Magi from the East, having worshipped the Lord in Bethlehem, were directed to return to their home another way by command of an angel. Herod, that wicked king, planned to slaughter all the children in Bethlehem, but God saw Herod's intention and sent His angel to Joseph. The angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and commanded him to take the young Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt. Thus, the words of the prophet were fulfilled: *Behold, the Lord rides upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt* (Isaiah 19:1). In old Cairo today, the cave where the holy family lived can be seen. Likewise, in the village of Matarea near Cairo, the tree under which the Most-Holy Theotokos rested with the Lord Jesus, as well as a miraculous spring of water under this tree, are visible. After having lived for several years in Egypt, the holy family returned to Palestine, again in response to a command of an angel of God. Thus, another prophecy was fulfilled: *Out of Egypt have I called my Son* (Hosea 11:1). Herod was dead and his wicked son Archelaus -a worthy successor of him in evil-sat on his bloodstained throne. Hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Jerusalem, Joseph returned to Galilee, to his town of Nazareth, where he settled in his own home. Herod's second son, Herod the Younger, who was somewhat less evil than his brother Archelaus, then reigned in Galilee.



## Troparion of Christmas

## And the Ruthenian (Rusyn) Tradition

An aspect of the liturgical tradition that many present-day Byzantine Catholics have lost occurs in the Christmas Troparion. Many of you should remember your parents and grandparents bowing slightly and making the sign of the Cross over themselves each time the **Christmas Troparion** was sung. A slight bow with a sign of the Cross should be made during the phrase: "... have learned from a star to worship (+) You the Sun of Justice. On the word worship we are to bow and bless ourselves. This demonstrates our adoration to the Christ-Child by bowing in spirit and body. Let us revive the tradition of the founders and benefactors of our Holy Ghost Church and transmit to our children and others this unique manner of glorifying the newly-born Christ Child.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

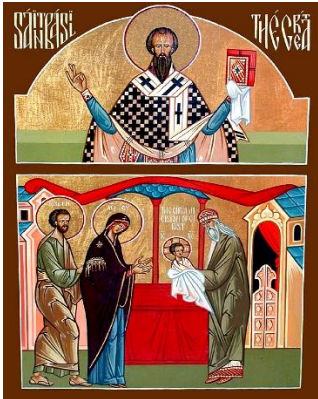
December 26	..... 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m.. (NS) 11:00 a.m.
December 27	..... 3 <sup>rd</sup> Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen . (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
December 28	.....Pirohi Project Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Golden Corral Buffet @ 6:00 p.m.
December 30	.....Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Golden Corral, Robinson @ 6:00 p.m.
December 31	..... New Year's Day Anticipated: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (NS) 6:00 p.m.
January 1	..... New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m.
January 5	..... (MR) Vigil Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great @ 7:00 pm.
January 6	... Feast of Theophany — Divine Liturgy of St. Basil & the Great Sanctification of Water — Holy Day of Obligation — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
January 16	..... Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
	..... Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
January 18-25	..... Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
January 22	.....49 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion.

## Solemn Holy Day & Saint of the Week

January 1

### FEAST OF OUR LORD'S CIRCUMCISION & Feast of St. Basil the Great — January 1

The Mosaic Law prescribed that when a woman brought a male child into the world, he had to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. Our Lord submitted to the circumcision



prescribed by the Law on this day, which is the eighth day after His birth, and received, according to the announcement of the angel, the name which is above all names, "Jesus" or Savior. In celebrating the name day of the Lord today, we begin the New Year at the same time under the sign of the Nativity of Christ. Saint Basil the Great belonged to the province of Pontus, through his father also named Basil, and through his Emmelia, and through his mother Emmelia, to Cappadocia. He was born in Caesarea in Cappadocia around 329-330. He studied in Caesarea, then in Constantinople under Libanius, and finally in Athens, where he became a close friend of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus. Shortly after his

return to Caesarea which occurred about 356, he retired in solitude to the outskirts of Neocaesarea, where his mother and his sister Macrina already led the monastic life. It is at that time he composed his ascetical writings. He was ordained a priest by Eusebius, Archbishop of Caesarea, and at the death of the latter was elected in 370 to succeed him and rule the Church of Christ. He governed it for eight years, during which time he proved himself a witness of the truth in the face of heresy and full of courage before the threats of the Arian Emperor Valens. He died on January 1, in the year 379. The wisdom and the learning which fill his works, his Philokalia (extracts from the works of Origen), his Treatise on the Holy Spirit, his theological work against the Arian Eunomius, his ascetical writings, his monastic rules, his commentaries on Sacred Scripture, the panegyrics which he made of many saints, his correspondence, and finally the splendor and the force of his words, have won for him rightly the epitaphs of "Revealer of Heaven," and of the "Great."

## General Announcements

**PASTOR EXTENDS GRATITUDE FOR CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE** — Fr. Firko extends heart-felt thanks to all who remembered him by way of prayers, greeting cards, gifts and cooperation to ready the Church for this Christmas Season. A special thank you for all who attended the special Holy Day Services and the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. God bless all of you for your remembrances, kindnesses & thoughtfulness!!! Your special intentions will be offered at the Holy Day Divine Liturgy on the **Feast of the Encounter — Wednesday, February 2, 2022 @ 8:50 a.m.** On this day we solemnly bless candles.



**DATE CHANGED: CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER** — Since there is no Simple Abstinence (no meat during the week following the Nativity of Our Savior Jesus Christ on Christmas, we will be able to celebrate fully at our Pirohi Project Finale and Parish Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township. Pirohi Project Volunteers on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.; All Parish Volunteers on Thursday, December 30, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. As you know, the Church cannot operate very well if it weren't for volunteers! This complimentary dinner extends its appreciation for all who volunteered in some aspect of parish life throughout 2020. 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 vestibule of the Church. *Final day for signing is today.*



**YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS** — It's that time of year to think about filing our taxes. Our Holy Ghost wishes to credit you whatever you contributed in 2021. *The final day to submit any contribution for this tax year is Wednesday, December 29, 2021.* Anything collected after that date will roll-over to the New Year 2022. **For example, any of this year's Christmas Donations that arrive following this date will be accredited to 2022 year's record.** Please keep this in mind when you are preparing to file your income tax. Thank you for remembering your Church throughout 2021! May God bless your sacrificial generosity so that our Holy Ghost Church may continue to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). — **END OF THE YEAR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS CAN BE SENT VIA E-MAIL PLEASE REQUEST IT NOW BY SUBMITTING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!**



**A NOTE FROM THE INTERCHURCH FOOD BAND** — We have just received a letter of gratitude for our parochial non-perishable food drive: Dear members of (MR) & (NS) Holy Ghost Parishes, "Thank you so much for your very generous food donation to Interchurch Food Bank, and also for the financial contributions as well. Your support helps so much in meeting the needs in our community." — Sincerely, Donna Pollard.

**CARPATHO-RUSYN RADIO PROGRAM ON INTERNET** —The radio program will can be found on Rusyn.fm on Sundays at 3:30 pm. Rusyn.fm. It is an internet based Rusyn radio station in Slovakia. Rusyn.fm can be accessed through any computer with internet access or as a smartphone application. Archives of past broadcasts can be accessed at crsmedia.org.

