

Parish Offerings – SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY – January 9, 2022

“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 | \$1,658.00 |
| Holy Days | 2,890.00 |
| Initial (\$60) YP (\$3) B.C.W. (\$225) | 288.00 |
| Votive Candles | 107.50 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$4,943.50 |

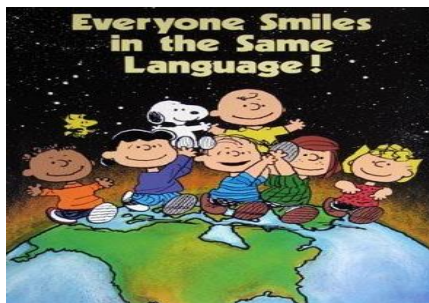
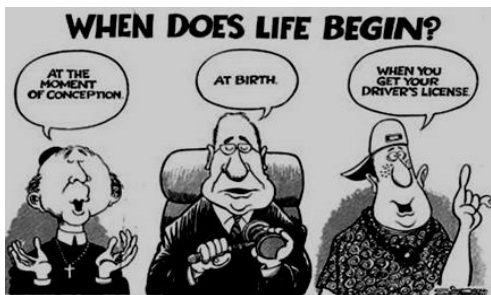
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Regular Offering | \$545.00 |
| Holy Days (\$30) B.C.W. (\$28) | 78.00 |
| Initial | 21.00 |
| Votive Candles | 39.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$683.00 |

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (26);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (45); (NS) 11:00 am (30)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
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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

34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

January 16, 2022



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

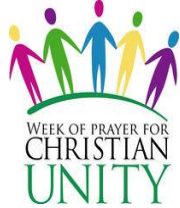
Daily Divine Liturgy
M-F (MR) 8:00 am
Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.

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.
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).

January 16, 2022



Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 3
Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!!



The 34th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Jan 16

9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Peter A. Smoley Dgtr: Mary Ann
 (49th ann of passing 1/17)

Federal Holiday — Martin Luther King, Jr. — Banks Closed & No Postal Service

Mon, Jan 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Robert Scandiffio Judith Anne Bercik
 (11th ann of passing 1/3)

Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity

Tue, Jan 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + John Family
 + Mary Susan Dragosh

Wed., Jan 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Pearl + Andrew Revtai Revtai Family

Thrs., Jan 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Sharon Ann Maletz Parents: Bob & Martha

. REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
 For the intention of World Peace

Fri, Jan 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia Wovchko (birthday) Anonymous

49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade Supreme Court infamous decision legalizing abortion
 Sat, Jan 22 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for 35th Sunday after the Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Debra Ann Palahunik Sheri & Jeff Walewski
 (5th ann of passing)

The 35th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Jan 23

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Pearl + Andrew Revtai Revtai Family
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak, Jr. Wife: Jane
 (9th ann of passing 1/1)

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: Jan 16 – Edward Connor, Jan 18 – Michael Ferrell; Jan 19 – Barbara Lutz; Jan 21 – KIRK LATTA, Nicholas Nazak I.

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, KIRK LATTA, 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. What should you get out of church (Divine Liturgy)? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The real question is, "What should you put into the Divine Liturgy?" We are there to worship God (CCC 1070, 1073). He is not there to entertain us. With good and fervent worship of God and heartfelt prayer, you will have an inner peace in knowing that you adore God and are giving Him thanks (1 Jn 4:19; Sirach 7:30). This is the funny thing: People who go to the Divine Liturgy seeking to put in faith, hope and charity find themselves getting all sorts of wonderful things out of the Divine Liturgy. Those who go trying to get something out of the Divine Liturgy often find it dull.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 16 — January 22, 2022

(MR): In memory of Claudia C. Verner (5th ann of passing 1/16)

offered by Husband: George

(NS): In memory of Pearl & Andrew Revtai

(MR) None available for 2022

offered by Revtai Family

(NS) None available for 2022

McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of Margaret A.



“Peg” McCusker Flaherty, age 73, of Ingram, unexpectedly on Friday, December 31, 2021. Beloved wife of 27 years to James B. Flaherty II. Among her siblings is parishioner Charles (Peggy) McCusker. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Schepner-McDermott Funeral Home, Crafton. Our parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Flaherty-McCusker Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Margaret, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat’!

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED FORTHCOMING — Today, **Sunday, January 16, 2022 following the Divine Liturgy** and ask an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider assisting us, especially if you weren’t able to help in the set up.

OUTSIDE CONCRETE LENTIL TO BASEMENT TO BE REPAIRED — Below the school side entrance at the stairwell, the cement lintel is cracking. It have made the entrance to the basement impossible to open or close. We have contacted the Alex Restoration and Masonry Repairs, New Castle, PA to resolve the problem. We will also have to seek replacement of a new door once they have completed the project. Alex R&MR was the same company that restored the cement pedestal and cleaned the statue of the Holy Virgin Mary in the past. It is necessary that this repair be expedited ASAP since the repair is below main entrance for the teachers, students and families to enter and exit the premises. The cost of this repair is \$5,583.20. We are awaiting scheduling.



North Side Announcements

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED — Following the Divine Liturgy today **Sunday, January 16, 2022**, we are asking all volunteers to help put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we can all depart. Please consider offering an hour of your time, especially if you weren’t able to help in the set up.

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD SUBSCRIPTION NOW DUE — Our *Archieparchial B.C.W. Newspaper* is an excellent source for providing news of our Church. Please renew your annual subscription of \$14.00 in the church envelope. If you are a new subscriber, please indicate by writing NEW on the envelope. Also, several of our parishioners who are on medicade living in special needs facilities and/or cannot afford a subscription. If you would like to subsidize a year’s subscription for them, please consider donating the annual cost of \$14.00. To receive this gift subscription, they remain connected to their Church that cares for them throughout the year! Remaining funds will be used as postage to subsidize weekly Church bulletin postage for them! It would be greatly appreciated!

**2021 Individual Financial Statement
Available Upon Request**

TODAY’S GOSPEL MEDITATION

Jesus stops, responds, and reaches out to!

GOSPEL Luke 18:35-43

Now, to the folks in Jericho that day, this blind man was a noisy, stubborn nuisance. They want to make a good impression on Jesus, and here’s this man screaming obnoxiously. The people see nuisance. Jesus sees need. He knows that behind those screams is a man with a desperate need. And the man everybody else is trying to shut up



Jesus stops for, responds to, reaches out to. When you try to see the need behind someone’s deed, it changes the way you treat that person. There’s probably someone in your world who needs that kind of understanding from you right now. It may be someone who has hurt you deeply . . . mistreated you . . . used you . . . even attacked you. You may be increasingly annoyed or irritated or angry with someone whose attitude or actions or approach

really rub you the wrong way. But there’s a good chance there’s pain underneath the way they are. Past battles that have almost programmed them to respond in a way that they think will protect them from more pain. Sometimes when people are bleeding emotionally, they bleed on us. If that person was injured in front of your house and physically bleeding, you’d respond with compassion and you’d do all you could to stop the bleeding. When you try to understand the needs behind their deeds, you can finally respond as Jesus told us to - **“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:27, 28)**. That person you struggle with doesn’t need any more wounds . . . they need someone who will, in Jesus’ love, help heal those wounds.

THE MANY BENEFITS OF HOLY & SANCTIFIED WATER

Because holy and sanctified water is one of the Church’s sacramentals, it remits venial sin. Keep your soul beautifully pure in God’s sight by making the Sign of the Cross carefully while



saying: *“Wash me and I shall become clean, cleanse me and I will be whiter than snow” (Psalm 51)*. Draw Blessings Down on Your Loved Ones Holy water, sprinkled with faith and piety, can move the Sacred Heart to bless your loved ones and protect them from all harm of soul and body. When worry and fear take possession of your heart, hasten to your holy water font, and give your dear ones the benefit of the Church’s prayers. **HOLY WATER USES:** Bless Yourself and Others (family & friends) Bless Your Pets Bless Your House (especially during bad weather) Bless Your Electronics (computers, televisions, etc) Bless Your Car, Motorcycle, and/or Boat, Bless Your Work Space, Bless the Sick and Dying Sprinkle Some on the Graves when you visit a Cemetery & also sprinkle some for the Poor Souls in Purgatory Proper Disposal of Holy Water:

Remember to discard previous year’s Sanctified Water in a respectable manner such as watering your plants or place it in an area of the ground that is not walked on! It is not to be poured down the sink drain! Also, you may bring it to Church to be drained in a holy sink called a Sacarium.

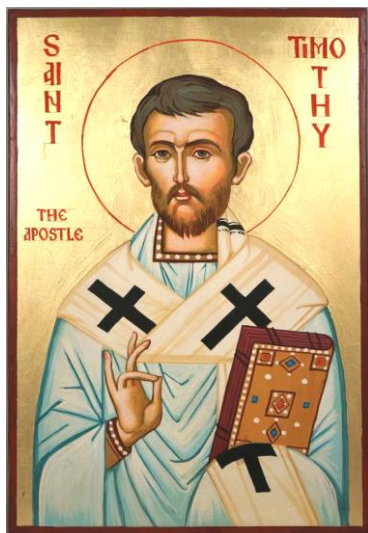
Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 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 17 | Annual Federal Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. — No Banking/Postal Services |
| January 18-25 | Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity. |
| January 22 | 49 th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Decision legalizing abortion. |
| February 2 | Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 am.; (NS) 5:50 pm. |
| February 18-19 | First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m. |
| February 28 | PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. |

Saint of the Week — January 22

Holy Apostle Timothy

Timothy was one of the Seventy Apostles. He was born in Lystra in Lycaonia of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. The Apostle Paul praised his mother and grandmother because of their sincere faith. " I yearn to see you again, recalling your tears, so that I may be filled with joy, as I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and that, I am confident, lives also in you" (II Timothy 1: 4-5). Timothy first met with the great apostle in Lystra and was himself a witness when Paul healed the one lame from birth. Later, Timothy was an almost constant traveling companion of Paul, traveling with him to Achaia, Macedonia, Italy and Spain. Sweet in soul, he was a great zealot for the Faith, and a superb preacher.



Timothy contributed much to the spreading and establishing of the Christian Faith. Paul calls him "my own son in the faith." "Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus, Who is our hope, to Timothy, my own son in the Faith: grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Timothy 1: 1-2). After Paul's martyrdom, Timothy had St. John the Evangelist as his teacher. But when the Emperor Domentian banished John from Ephesus to the island of Patmos, Timothy remained in Ephesus to serve as bishop. During the time of an idolatrous feast called Katagogium, the pagans, resentful of the Christians, treacherously and in disguise, attacked Timothy and killed him about the year 93 A.D. Later his honorable relics were translated to Constantinople and interred in the Church of the Twelve Apostles alongside of the grave of St. Luke the Evangelist and St. Andrew the First-called.

General Announcements

INVITE YOUR PASTOR TO BLESS YOUR HOME EACH YEAR — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our home, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office.



ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VS. WADE — Tuesday, **January 22**, marked the 49th anniversary of the shameful 1973 infamous Supreme Court Decision of *ROE VS. WADE* which legalized abortion. As a Pro-Life Parish, we must continue our prayers of supplication and sacrificial efforts to have this horrific law overturned. As we commemorate this Pro-Life Weekend, may we join other Prolifers as the outspoken voices for our silent brothers and sisters conceived awaiting birth. Prayer: **O Lord, send down Your Holy Spirit and protect all children, born and unborn. Penetrate the hearts of all pregnant women and fill them with Your love as well as love for their precious unborn babies. May all victims of abortion find healing in You. Lord, enlighten all those who do not know the truth. Soften the hearts of the abortionists, and those who use their influence and power to bring about this end. For You are the Source of life, mercy and forgiveness and we render glory to You, Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.**



EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY CONTINUES — This Tuesday commences the *Annual Eight Days of Prayer* for the intention of Christian Unity. Each year from January 18-25, Christians unite to pray in the same sentiments that Jesus prayed to the Father: "That all may be one ... so that the world may believe." (John 17:21). **This year's theme is: "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship Him" (Mt. 2:2).** Like the Magi who braved the perils of a long and dangerous journey to find the Christ child, our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East face many hardships as they strive to live out their faith in Christ. Our prayer in solidarity with their suffering is a light of hope and communion. As Catholics we have the fullness of the faith that Jesus established, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Pray each day: **"O Almighty and Merciful God, You willed that the different nations should become one people through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. In this may Your name be glorified Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen."**

