

Parish Offerings – 34TH Sunday after Pentecost – January 16, 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 (\$2,417) YP (\$19)	\$2,436.00
Holy Days	80.00
Initial (\$70) YP (\$4) B.C.W. (\$140)	214.00
Special Donation (In memory of Debra Charcoal cf details inside)	575.00
Votive Candles	107.50
	<hr/>
	\$3,394.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$565.00
Initial	5.00
Votive Candles	39.95

Church Attendance Last Week \$609.95

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (26);
Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (59); (NS) 11:00 am (30)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

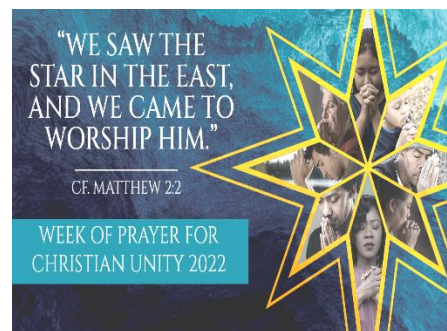
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prayer for Christian Unity & Pro-life Sunday

January 23, 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

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

Your most powerful testimony is how you treat others after the CHURCH SERVICE is over

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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

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 23, 2022

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 4

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



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)

Mon, Jan 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann A. Kohan (birthday) Sister: Dolores & Ted Babin

Our Father among the Saints, Gregory the Theologian
Final Day of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity

Tue, Jan 25 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health of a Friend Alice Slagle

Wed., Jan 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Hrebenak Anita Sem. Luke & Maria Iyengar
(36th ann of passing)

Transposition of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom

Thrs., Jan 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Bernard Raymond Bercik Dgr: Judi
(3rd ann of passing)

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

Fri, Jan 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak + Deb & Flo Charochak

Sat, Jan 29 9:00 a.m. (NS) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for 3 Holy Hierarchs — Sunday of Zacchaeus
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Bilak + Tomchak Families + Deb & Flo Charochak

Sunday of Zacchaeus

The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday — Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs

SUN, Jan 30

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Christina Michalisk Kulka & Wickline Families
(40th day of passing 1/31)
11:00 a.m. (NS) Health & Welfare. Anna Marie Demianczyk
of Kirk Lata (Birthday 1/21)

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 23 – Dean Poloka, Lydia Sell, Jan 24 – Alaina Usouski; Jan 26 – DOLORES HUDANICK; Jan 29 – Richard Cifrulak, Gary Schilling.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuonas, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Tim Kacsur, Dolores Kosko, Steve Kosko, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, 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: Can gay marriage ever be not sinful? Also, can a priest bless a gay couple?

Answer from Tom Nash, Catholic Apologist: No, the Catholic Church could never approve or otherwise support “same-sex” marriage, nor could a priest validly bless such a couple as a couple, irrespective of whether the pair had gone through a civil ceremony of some sort. The Church maintains its position out of love for the two persons involved as well as society in general. Authentic marriage involves the marital act, in which the two become one. Same-sex relationships involve two people of the same gender whose absence of complementarity precludes oneness sexually and otherwise as a couple. Two men are called to be brothers and two women to be sisters.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 23 — January 29, 2022

(MR): **In memory of Margaret & George Kurtanich** (wed. ann.)
offered by Children

(NS): **In memory of William (Bill) Gogal** (birthday 1/9)

(MR) None available for 2022 offered by Anonymous (NS) None available for 2022



McKees Rocks Announcements

LITURGICAL TELECASTS CAN BE REPLAYED — Perhaps many of you are unaware that the You Tube telecasts of our Weekend & Week Day Liturgical Service can be replayed throughout the day. This can be accomplished by going to the You Tube channel (see the address on the front cover of the S.O.T.) Once there choose one of the several icons and double click it. Once you have accomplished this, place your cursor over the enlarged icon, and notice that a long red horizontal bar will



extend beneath it. Place your cursor on the red dot at your right, and drag it to your left. You should begin to see video action of the day's celebration. The live stream continues throughout the day for those who wish to listen to our Byzantine Catholic liturgical music both in English and Church Slavonic. We hope that you are enjoying our LIVE & ENCOURING STREAMING.

IN MEMORIAM — Due to several individuals that have submitted donations in Memory of the passing of Debra Charochak on December 31, 2021, their listing is as follows: Lu Consur (\$500.00); Alice Sejka (\$50.00) and Fran Blumling (\$25.00). Thus totaling \$575.00. God bless you, and thank you for your kind and sacrificial gesture. In blessed repose, grant rest O Lord, to Your servant Debra, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of the meeting slated for **Monday, February 7, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.** Please place this date on your agenda.

North Side Announcements

PARISHIONER PASSES INTO ETERNITY — This past week, the S.O.T. was made aware of the passing of parishioner, **Olga (Sosnak) Manfredo** of the North Hills. Funeral arrangement are incomplete as of this publication. An obituary should appear in next weeks edition. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest, to your servant, Olga, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FORTHCOMING — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of the meeting slated for **Sunday, February 6, 2022 following the Divine Liturgy.** Please place this date on your agenda.

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.

THANKS, FROM THE FAMILY FOUNDATIONS EARLY HEAD START — *Dear Barb, Peter (Stecko) and Members of the Church: Your beautiful souls can't help but shine on those around you. Thank you for the many wonderful gifts that you gave to our children. Thank you for your generosity and tireless work. You made many children happy. Carry on this legacy for it is beautiful to see it in action. Happy New Year! — Jana Miller, Family Foundations E.H.S. McKees Rocks.*

TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

By perseverance she became worthy — Gospel: Mt. 15:21-28
Commentary by St. John Chrysostom

The Canaanite woman whose daughter was tormented by a devil came to Christ begging his help. Most urgently she cried out: Lord, have pity on me. My daughter is grievously tormented by a devil. Notice that the woman was a foreigner, a gentile, a person from outside the Jewish community. What was she then but a dog, unworthy to obtain her request? It is not fair, said the Lord, to take the children's bread and give it to the dogs. Nevertheless, by perseverance she became worthy; for Christ not only admitted her to the same noble rank as the children, dog though she was, but he also sent her away with high praise, saying: Woman, you have great faith. Let it be as you desire. Now when Christ says: You have great faith, you need seek no further proof of the woman's greatness of soul. **You see that an unworthy woman became worthy by perseverance.** Now would you like proof that we shall gain more by praying ourselves than by asking others to pray for us? The woman cried out and the disciples went to Christ and said: Give her what she wants - she is shouting after us. And he said to them: I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. But when the 'woman herself, still crying out, came to him and said: That is true, sir, and yet the dogs eat what falls from their master's table, then he granted her request, saying: Let it be as you desire. Have you understood? When the disciples entreated him the Lord put them off, but when the woman herself cried out begging for this favor he granted it. **And at the beginning, when she first made her request, he did not answer, but after she had come to him once, twice, and a third time, he gave her what she desired.** By this he was teaching us that he had withheld the gift not to drive her away, but to make that woman's patience an example for all of us. Now that we have learned these lessons, let us not despair even if we are guilty of sin and unworthy of any favor. We know that we can make ourselves worthy by perseverance.



Pope Francis Speaks — On Christian Unity Pope's Previous General Audience at St. Peter Square in 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In these days we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A past year's theme was a question taken from the First Letter to the Corinthians: "Has Christ Been Divided?". We know that Christ has not been divided; yet we must sincerely recognize that our communities continue to experience divisions which are a source of scandal and weaken our witness to the Gospel. In reproaching the Corinthians for their divisions, Paul reminds them to rejoice in the great spiritual gifts which they have received. His words encourage us to rejoice in the gifts God has given to other Christians, gifts which we can receive from them for our enrichment. To be able to do this calls for humility, discernment and constant conversion. As we reflect on



Paul's teaching during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, may we be confirmed, together with all Christ's followers, in our pursuit of holiness and fidelity to the Lord's will.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 18-25 Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
January 22 49th 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 6 (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the DL.
February 7 (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting Monday @ 7:00 p.m.
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

Our Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome

January 24

Saint Xenia of Rome, in the world Eusebia, was the only daughter of an eminent Roman senator. From her youth she loved God, and wished to avoid



the marriage arranged for her. She secretly left her parental home with two servants devoted to her, and set sail upon a ship. Through the Providence of God she met the head of the monastery of the holy Apostle Andrew in Milassa, a town of Caria (Asia Minor). She besought him to take her and her companions to Milassa. She also changed her name, calling herself Xenia [which means “stranger” or foreigner” in Greek]. At Milassa she bought land, built a church dedicated to St Stephen, and founded a woman’s monastery. Soon after this, Bishop Paul of Milassa made Xenia a deaconess, because of her virtuous life. The saint helped everyone: for the destitute, she

was a benefactress; for the grief-stricken, a comforter; for sinners, a guide to repentance. She possessed a deep humility, accounting herself the worst and most sinful of all. In her ascetic deeds she was guided by the counsels of the Palestinian ascetic, St Euthymius. The sublime life of St Xenia drew many souls to Christ. The holy virgin died in 450 while she was praying. During her funeral, a luminous wreath of stars surrounding a radiant cross appeared over the monastery in the heavens. This sign accompanied the body of the saint when it was carried into the city, and remained until the saint’s burial. Many of the sick received healing after touching the relics of the saint.

General Announcements

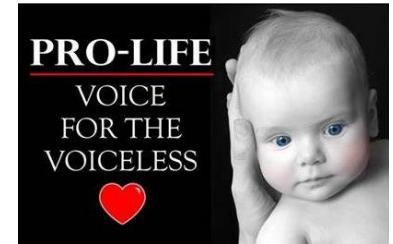
INVITE YOUR PASTOR TO BLESS YOUR HOME EACH YEAR — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where



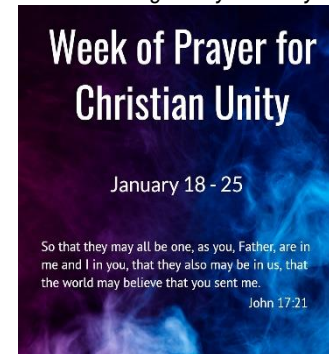
they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our home, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God’s protective power.

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. We especially need this blessing during this continued Pandemic Year! 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 — 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 concludes 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).* 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.”