

Parish Offerings – SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHAY – January 2, 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 (\$2,618) YP (\$12)	\$2,630.00
Christmas (\$390) YP (\$10) Holy Days (\$568 YP (\$2)	970.00
Initial (\$193) B.C.W. (\$14)	207.00
Votive Candles	144.00
	\$3,951.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

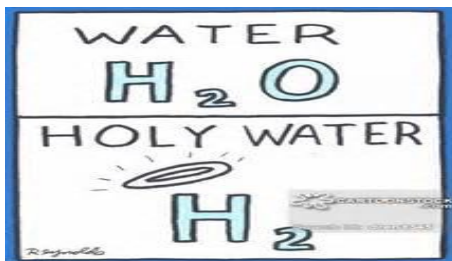
Regular Offering	\$740.50
Holy Days	60.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvements (\$60) Archdiocesan Charities (\$5)	75.00
Votive Candles (\$46.70) Initial (\$60) B.C.W. (\$14)	120.70

Church Attendance Last Week \$996.20

New Year’s Eve — Fri (NS) 6:00 p.m. (5)

Circumcision of the Lord – Feast of St. Basil the Great – New Year’s Day
Sat., (MR) 9:00 am (31)

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (21); Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (61); (NS) 11:00 am (31)
Theophany — Wed, Jan 5 (MR) 7:00 pm (22); Thurs, Jan 6 (MR) 9:00 am (31); (NS) 6:00 pm (13)

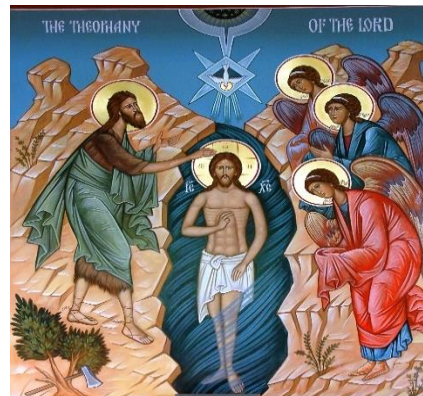


HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT
Sunday after Theophany — January 9, 2022



THE THREE KINDS OF BAPTISM

<p>WATER BAPTISM</p> <p>This is the normal sacrament of baptism with water, in imitation of Jesus Christ who was baptized and in obedience to His commandment. (Mt 28:29)</p>	<p>BAPTISM BY BLOOD</p> <p>This is received by those who, without having been baptized, give their lives as martyrs for Christ. (1Co 12:14)</p>	<p>BAPTISM OF DESIRE?</p> <p>This is received by those who, desiring Baptism, die before receiving it. (1Co 12:15)</p>
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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
Ill Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 580-1545
Nanode@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alterations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

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.

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 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

. As the prophet foretold, a Great Light, Christ, has shown upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali. A people living in darkness have seen a Great Light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is a protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today (Ikos of Theophany Matins).

January 9, 2022

Theophany Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 2

(Through Jan. 14):

Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!
Christos Krescajetsja! — Vo Jordan'ii!



Sunday after the Enlightenment

We Will Renew Our Baptismal Promises — Postfestive of Theophany

SUN, Jan 9 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Harsh (birthday 1/12) Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop (birthday 1/12) Valeriano & Kallop Families

Mon, Jan 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew J. Drukalsky (birthday 1/9) Sister: Eleanor Masters

Tue, Jan 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Kodik (3rd ann of passing) Anonymous



Wed., Jan 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh Family

Thrs., Jan 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Maletz Son: Bob & Martha

Final Day of the Theophany Feast

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

Fri, Jan 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna May Sejka (birthday) Margaret Beliuнас

Sat, Jan 15 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Darko S. Gataric (birthday 1/11) Family



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for 34th Sunday after the Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Claudia C. Verner Dgtr: Nancy
(5th ann of passing 1/16)

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)

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 10 – MARY ANN SMOLEY, Jan 11 – Dennis Uram; Jan 12 – Michael Tomchak; Jan 13 – Noreen Muha; Jan 14 – Diane Bell, James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole; Jan 15 – William Boros.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, 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 Cifruk. Mildred Terrek.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Can a priest break the seal of confession to save lives? A. Answer by Catholic Answers Apologist Michelle Arnold: A priest cannot violate the seal of Confession for any reason whatsoever. The priest acts *in persona Christi* ("in the person of Christ") and in Confession the penitent is speaking to God Himself through the ministry of the priest. That means that the information given during sacramental Confession doesn't properly belong to the priest himself as a fellow human being; it belongs properly to the penitent and to God. That is one reason why the priest cannot act upon what he hears in sacramental Confession. Another reason is even more serious: If penitents have reason to fear that a priest is allowed to reveal their confessions, they won't confess. If they don't confess, they risk hell. Ultimately, the inviolability of the seal of Confession is about saving lives -- it is about saving the immortal souls of those who have committed mortal sin and are at risk of eternal damnation.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 9 — January 15, 2022

(MR): In memory of Terrek & Mikovitz Families

offered by Mildred (Mikovitz) Terrek

(NS): In memory of Julia & John Borsh

(MR) Now available for 2022

offered by Dgtr: Audrey Hart

(NS) Now available for 2022



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner, **Debra Ann Charochak 57**, of Kennedy Township at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, on Friday, December 31, 2021. She is survived by her mother Florence with whom she lived. Daughter of the Florence (Chirko) and the late Paul Charochak; beloved twin sister of the late Diane Charochak. Beloved niece of many late aunts and uncles from both the Charochak and Chirko families. She is also survived by many loving cousins and their families, her work family at Caring Heights, her church family at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, and countless friends. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. A Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Friday, Jan. 7 at 11:00 a.m.. Interment followed at St. Mary Cemetery. Our parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Charochak, Chirko and Tomchak Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Debra, and remember her forever. *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!*



CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED FORTHCOMING — We will gather next **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.

North Side Announcements

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DISMANTLED — Following the Divine Liturgy next **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 Effects of Holy and Sanctified Water

The Catechism teaches that the sacramentals, consequently holy water, operate principally by means of the Church's intercession (CCC 1667). The Church is the bride of the Divine Savior, and hence her prayers are always pleasing to God. When the Church prays, the divine bridegroom prays with her, and for this reason her prayer is powerful with God. Thus, it may happen that a lukewarm Christian may derive great benefit from the use of holy water. The reason for this is that God looks not on the unworthiness of mankind but rather on the prayer of the Church, so pleasing to Him. Especially, though, will the loyal children of the Church, who seek to coordinate their ideas to those of the divine Savior and of the Church, participate in the blissful effects of holy water. **1. Use holy water to drive away the devil; 2. Use holy water to overcome temptations; 3. You can use holy water to drive away sickness – and future illness too; 4. Holy water cleanses soul from venial sins and temporal punishments; 5. Take advantage of those sanctifying effects found with holy water; and 6. Use holy water for the comfort and release of the holy souls in Purgatory.**



2021 Individual Financial Statement Available Upon Request – Contact Church Office. It is possible to have it emailed to you.



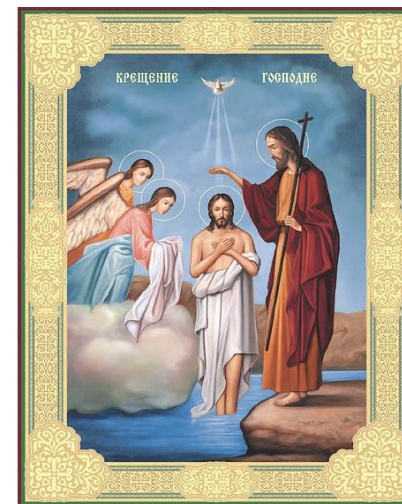
CONTINUING

THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST Sunday after the Enlightenment



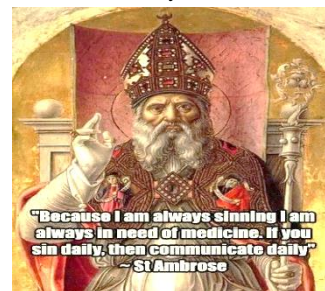
GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17

We are currently in the postfestive period of Holy Theophany, and it is designated to be a continuation of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This Sunday is referred to as the "Sunday after the Enlightenment." This designation comes from the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the "Enlightenment." It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus' own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared for their initiation and admission into the Church received baptism, chrismation and eucharist on that day. Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one's own baptism, and how its relevance and personal effect have called us to be God's new chosen people. What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with Jesus' Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us? During this special year of Mercy, take this Sunday's celebration to heart and recommit yourself to Christ since He is worthy and promises eternal life and great mercy.



The (Church) Fathers Know Best

The Early Church Fathers believed that being baptized was being born again. They



baptized both adults and infants and they used three methods; immersion, pouring and sprinkling. **Tertullian:** "No one can attain salvation without baptism, especially in view of the declaration of the Lord, who says, "Unless a man shall be born of water, he shall not have life" (On Baptism 12:1 [A.D. 203). **Origen:** "The Church received from the apostles the tradition of giving baptism even to infants. The apostles, to whom were committed the secrets of divine sacraments, knew there is in everyone innate strains of [original] sin, which must be washed away through water and the Spirit" (Commentaries on Romans 5:9 [A.D. 248])

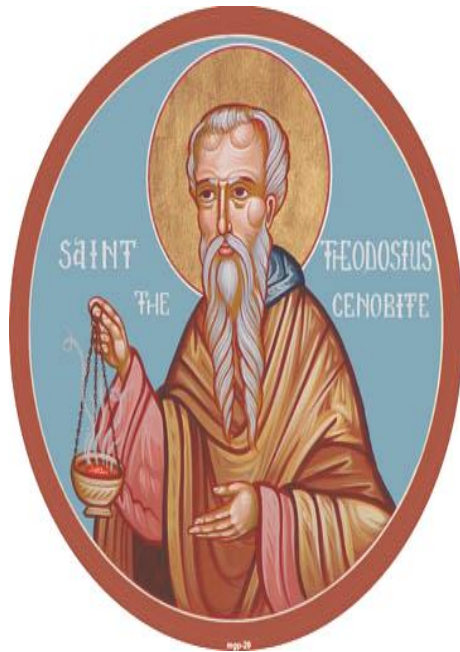
Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 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 a.m.; (NS) 5:50 p.m.
 February 18-19 First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Venerable Father Theodosius — January 11

Theodosius was the first founder and organizer of the cenobitic way of monastic life. He was born in the province of Cappadocia in the

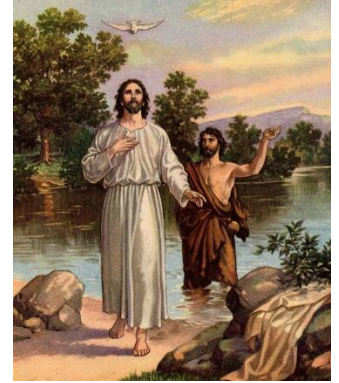


village of Mogarissus of devout parents. As a child, he visited St. Simeon the Stylite who blessed him and prophesied great and spiritual honors about him. With a kadilnica [censer] in which he placed unburned charcoal and incense, Theodosius sought out a place where he could settle and establish his monastery and stopped when the kadilo fired up on its own. Here, he settled and began to live the ascetical life. Soon, he gathered around him many monks of various nationalities. He built a church for each nationality so that, at the same time, services and hymns were offered to God in Greek, Armenian, Georgian, etc. But, on

the day of Holy Communion, all the brotherhood gathered in the great church in which the Greek language was used. There was a communal table for all, communal property, communal penance, communal labor, communal patience and, not too rare, communal hunger. Theodosius was an exalted model of life to all the monks; an example in labor, prayer, fasting, watchfulness and in all Christian virtues. God granted him the gift of working miracles by which he was able to heal the sick, to appear from a distance, to tame wild beasts, to discern the future and to cause bread and wheat to multiply. Prayer was on his lips day and night. He died peacefully in the Lord in the year 529 A.D., the one-hundred fifth year after his birth.

General Announcements

POSTFESTIVE OF THEOPHANY — Thursday, **January 6, 2022**, was the *Feast of Holy Theophany*. It was the Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ and is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Remember we were obliged to attend the Divine Liturgy on that day! On this sacred Feast water was solemnly blessed. There is plenty of this this water remaining. Throughout this month, please remember to bring your own container for the newly sanctified water. Each home should have newly sanctified water. Last year's holy water is to be discarded reverently in a place that is not trampled upon. **DO NOT pour it down the drain**. If you find it difficult to discard bring it to the Church. The Northside has a holy sink that drains into the ground beneath the church. You are encouraged to use the newly sanctified water throughout the New Year by anointing yourself with it and even drinking it. Holy Water Fonts are now operational, and will be cleaned each week.



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK — Just a reminder that The Feast of Holy Theophany – The Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, was celebrated



this past week on **January 6 was a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. The Canon Law of our Byzantine Catholic Church states: "The Christian faithful are bound by the obligation to participate on Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation) in the Divine Liturgy" (Canon 881#1); and "are recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on

these days ..." (Canon 881 #3); "and should abstain from those labors or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God" (Canon 881 #4). Negligence of this church precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntarily neglect. Please come to Confession before approaching Holy Communion.

WHY YOUR HOME SHOULD BE BLESSED 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*

so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants. As we renew 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.

