

Parish Offerings – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost — June 26, 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(\$1,501) YP (\$5)	\$1,506.00
Pentecost (\$10) All Saints (\$50) Holy Days (\$152)	212.00
Special Donation (Utilities – Anonymous)	50.00
Votive Candles (\$75.50) Peter’s Pence (\$245)	320.50
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	\$2,088.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$648.00
Holy Days	40.00
Utilities (\$90) Improvements (\$5)	95.00
Votive Candles (\$39) Peter’s Pence (\$10)	49.00
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	\$832.00

Church Attendance Last Week

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (51); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)

SS. Peter & Paul — Tue. (MR) 7:00 pm (25) & Wed. (MR) 9:00 am (26); (NS) 6:00 pm (22)



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



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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

Handyman Services
North Side Parishioner
Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

Sponsors make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without incurring an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1.
Come Join Us

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Annual Independence Weekend — 4th of July

July 3, 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 Mysteries 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 Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge(MR). Contact Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership.
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).

July 3, 2022

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XII, Number 27



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Annual Independence Weekend — 4th of July

SUN., Jul 3 9:00 a.m. (MR) + William Haffly Greg & Leonora Haffly
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Daniel J. Galida (birthday 7/5) Sister: Kathy Mullen

Independence Day — No Postal Service & Banking

Mon, Jul 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health, Welfare & Forgiveness of Sins of our Country

Tue, Jul 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Sosak MaryEllen & John Oslick
(51st ann. of passing 7/4)



Wed Jul 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Maletz Brother: Bob & Martha Maletz

Thrs, Jul 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William H. Zavidny Sister-in-Law: Bunny Zavidny
(40th day of passing 7/8)

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

Fri, Jul 8 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Justin L. Mendillo Kathy Mendillo



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

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alex Bilak, Jr. Children: Leyte, Mike, Alex & Linda



5th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Jul 10 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Mazur Dawna, Christopher & Michael Becketi
(12th ann. of passing 7/9)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Martha Jupinko Marlene Pfeiffer

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: Jul 4 – Michele Cifrulak; Jul 6 – Stephen Kosko; Jul 7 – Tim Bedard, Anna Stebbins; Jul 9 – Albert Kovacs, Sr., John Kutchmark.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier.

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.
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, Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.
THE HAVEN AT NORTH HILLS (1 Windsor Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): DOLORES HUDANICK.
UPMC SHADYSIDE HOSPITAL (5230 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232): Irene Bordas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. How long before the Divine Liturgy should we abstain from eating? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: The Church requires that we abstain from eating for one hour before receiving the Eucharist (CCC 1387). Technically, you could eat something before a longer Divine Liturgy and still receive the Eucharist, as long as communion time was an hour after you ate. The point of the Eucharistic Fast is to prepare us to receive Jesus with greater yearning. Fasting prior to the Divine Liturgy is the appropriate way to prepare ourselves for receiving Jesus. It just doesn't seem right to have a chocolate doughnut or a cheeseburger in our stomachs just a few minutes before we receive the Creator of the universe.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

July 3 — July 9, 2022

(MR): In memory of Mark Cifrulak
offered by Family

(NS): In memory of Agnes Kacsur

All reserved for 2022 offered by Niece: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) All reserved for 2022



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

YOUTH GROUP TO ATTEND YOUTH RALLY THIS WEEK — Our prayers go with our Byzan-TEEN Youth Group who are currently at the Byzantine Youth Rally in Emmitsburg, MD this week. We will have 4 Teens and one chaperone. May God grant them and our chaperone a safe trip as you represent our Parish and meet other Byzantine Catholic Teens throughout the U.S.A.

MEETING UPDATE OF OUR CHURCH VOLUNTEERS — Following last Sunday's short but concise meeting of those in attendance, it has been decided that (1) the cleaning of the church library area will take place this Wednesday, July 6 at 9:00 a.m. We will be removing the books making room for additional religious education classrooms. We could use additional help even it be an hour of your time; (2) It was decided that we will forgo our Church Picnic this year.

North Side

RETIRED FORMER PASTOR MARKS BIRTHDAY — One of the longest assigned pastors of our Holy Ghost Church was **Monsignor Peter P. Tay**. Besides his pastoral duties, he was also assigned with Archieparchial duties at the Chancery. On July 7th, he will be observing a milestone 97th Birthday! I'm sure that he would appreciate receiving a birthday card from you. Thank him for dedicating his life as a priest. His address: 1200 San Pedro, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. May God grant to His servant, the Priest, Monsignor Tay, health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



SUMMER IS NOT A TIME TO VACATION FROM WORSHIPPING GOD — Now that Summer is here many will be vacationing. Please remember to keep the worship of

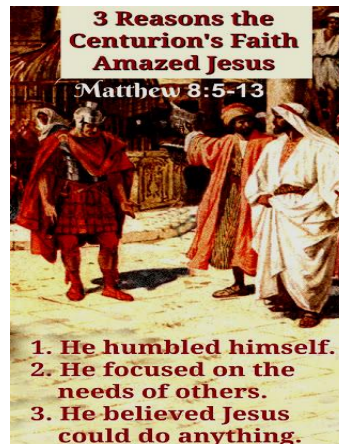


God in your plans. The first Precept of the Church is to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. *This does not exclude vacation time!* The place to worship God is at the Divine Liturgy. He is most kind and merciful, sustaining and gifting us in all that we have and need. *A voluntarily absence without serious reason makes one guilty of mortal sin, and unable to approach Holy Communion until the sinful neglect is confessed in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation.* If you know that where you are traveling that there is no Catholic Church, please inform the Pastor so that a dispensation may be considered. *You can download an app on your cell phone called "Mass Times."*

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Centurion Teaches Us to Believe! — (Matthew 8:5-13)

This centurion was a heathen, a Roman soldier. Though he was a soldier, yet he was a godly man. No man's calling or place will be an excuse for unbelief and sin. See



how he states his servant's case. *We should concern ourselves for the souls of our children and servants, who are spiritually sick, who feel not spiritual evils, who know not that which is spiritually good; and we should bring them to Christ by faith and prayers.* Observe his self-abasement. Humble souls are made more humble by Christ's gracious dealings with them. Observe his great faith. The more diffident we are of ourselves, the stronger will be our confidence in Christ. Herein the centurion owns him to have Divine power, and a full command of all the creatures and powers of nature, as a master over his servants. Such servants we all should be to God; we must go and come, according to the directions of his word and the disposals of his providence. But when

the Son of man comes he finds little faith, therefore he finds little fruit. An outward profession may cause us to be called children of the kingdom; but if we rest in that, and have nothing else to show, we shall be cast out. The servant got a cure of his disease, and the master got the approval of his faith. What was said to him, is said to all, Believe, and you will receive; only believe. See the power of Christ, and the power of faith. The healing of our souls is at once the effect and evidence of our interest in the blood of Christ.

Who Were Roman Centurions?

In ancient Rome the "centurion" meant "captain of 100", and the Roman centurion was captain over 100-foot soldiers in a legion. The Army of Rome consisted of three types of soldiers: The Praetorian Guard (Caesar's bodyguard), The Legionaries (infantry soldiers and officers made up of citizens), and The Auxiliaries (non-citizen troops). The centurion was loyal and courageous, beginning as a soldier in the army and working their way up the ranks. They were noticed by the general for their skill and courage in battle, and were made officers. The number of centurions in a legion was 60, that being at all epochs the number of centuries, although the number varied in the cohort or speira. **The ordinary duties of the centurion were to drill his men, inspect their arms, food and clothing, and to command them in the camp and in the field.** Centurions were sometimes employed on detached service the conditions of which in the provinces are somewhat obscure. Men like Cornelius and Julius (Acts 10:1; 27:1) may have been separated from the legion to which they properly belonged for the discharge of special duties. They and other centurions mentioned in the Gospels and the Acts (Mt 8:5; Mk 15:39, 44, 45; Lk 23:47) are represented by the sacred writers in a favorable light.



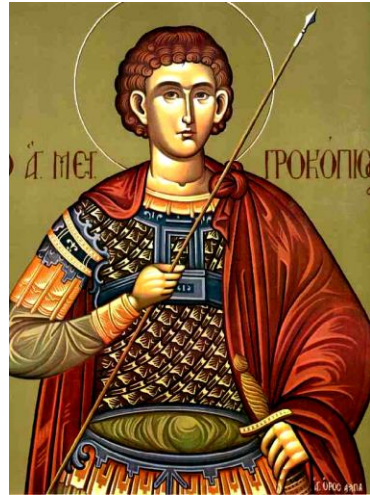
Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 4	A special (MR) 9:00 a.m. Patriotic Divine Liturgy.
July 20	Simple Holy Day: Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles. (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
July 28	100 th anniversary of GCU Byzantine Catholic Family Day, Kennywood Park
August 1-14	Commencement of the Saviorial Fast.
August 5	Anticipated Transfiguration DL w/ the blessing of fruits & grapes (NS) 6:00 p.m.
August 6	Transfiguration DL w/ the blessing of fruits and grapes (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.

Saint of the Week

Great-Martyr Procopius of Caesarea, Palestine — July 8

The Holy Great-Martyr Procopius, a native of Jerusalem, lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Diocletian (284-305). His father, an eminent Roman by the name of Christopher, was a Christian, but the mother, Theodosia, remained a pagan. The young child was raised by his mother. Having received an excellent secular education, he was introduced to Diocletian in the very first year of the emperor's accession to the throne, and he quickly advanced in government service. Towards the year 303, when open persecution against Christians began, he was sent as a proconsul to Alexandria with orders to mercilessly persecute the Church of God. On the way to Egypt, near the Syrian city of Apamea, he had a vision of the Lord Jesus, similar to the vision of Saul on the road to Damascus. A divine voice exclaimed, "Procopius, why do you persecute Me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" "I am the crucified Jesus, the Son of God." At that moment a radiant Cross appeared in the air he felt an inexpressible joy and spiritual happiness in his heart and he was transformed from being a persecutor into a zealous follower of Christ. From this point in time, he became favorably



disposed towards Christians and fought victoriously against the barbarians. The words of the Savior came true for the saint, "A man's foes shall be those of his own household" (Mt. 10:36). His mother, a pagan herself, went to the emperor to complain that her son did not worship the ancestral gods. He was summoned to the procurator Judaea's Justus, where he was solemnly handed the decree of Diocletian. Having read through the blasphemous directive, Procopius quietly tore it up before the eyes of everyone. This was a crime, which the Romans regarded as an "insult to authority." He was held under guard and in chains sent to Caesarea of Palestine, where the Apostle Paul once languished. After terrible torments, they threw the saint into a dark prison. That night, a light shone in the prison, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself baptized the suffering confessor. Repeatedly they led Procopius to the courtroom, demanding that he renounce Christ, and they subjected him to more tortures. The fiery faith of Procopius brought down God's abundant grace on those who witnessed the execution. Inspired by the example of Procopius, many of the holy martyr's former guards and Roman soldiers went beneath the executioner's sword together with their tribunes Nikostrates and Antiochus. Twelve Christian women received martyr's crowns, after they came to the gates of the Caesarea Praetorium. Struck by the great faith and courage of the Christians, and seeing the firmness of her son in bearing terrible sufferings, Theodosia became repentant and stood in the line of confessors and was executed. Finally, the new procurator, Flavian, convinced of the futility of the tortures, sentenced the holy Great Martyr Procopius to beheading by the sword. By night Christians took up his much-tortured body, and with tears and prayers, they committed it to the earth. This was the first martyrdom at Caesarea (303).

General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK

This past Wednesday, June 29 was the **Feast of Preeminent Apostles Saints Peter and Paul**. It is one of five Holy Day of Obligations of the **Byzantine Rite**. 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) at the Divine Liturgy"* (Canon 881#1); *"(the faithful) 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). Neglectful participation renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.



REGISTER FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. This celebration continues to be extended on a new format. It will take place on **Sunday, September 11, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Elias Church, Munhall**. If you are observing one of the above milestones, *please contact the Church office if you plan or DO NOT plan to attend!* All specially marked anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. *The final day of registration is next Sunday, July 24.*



KENNYWOOD PARK: BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY — The **100th Annual GCU & Byzantine Catholic Family Day** will be celebrated on **Thursday, July 28, 2022**. GCU is offering prepaid discounted tickets to members, parishioners and guests. FunDay Tickets (ages 4-64): \$25.00; Senior FunDay Tickets (ages 65+): \$22.00; Catered Lunch (ages 11+): \$17.00; Junior Catered Lunch (ages 3-10): \$10.00. Lunch includes: Chicken Tenders (w/sauce), charbroiled hot dogs, mac-n-cheese, fresh fruit salad, assorted potato chips and cookies. *Deadline for these discounted tickets is JULY 11.* Details at www.GCUusa.com. Order tickets online with a debit or credit card. You may also call 1 (800) 722-4428 ext. 3927 or email: mkullen@GCUusa.com. Local GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge or Churches will not be handling tickets. Gates open at 11:00 a.m. until close. Come join in the fun and set the day aside.



GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE CONTINUE TO LEND A HELPING HAND TO VETERANS FISHER HOUSE — Our local GCU Lodge is continuing to collect items to help Pittsburgh's VA Fisher House. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is a 10-bedroom "home away from home" and provides a place for visiting families to stay, free of charge, while their loved ones receive inpatient medical care at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is professionally furnished and features a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room with a library, and toys for children. They are requesting assistance in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Boxes will be placed at the side vestibule and narthex areas of both parishes for the **collection that will extend to July 31**. Needed items are listed on a sheet in the narthex/side vestibule or you may, phone Tina (412) 859-9597. Let's help our afflicted veterans and their families by supporting our GCU Lodge in this collection!

