

Parish Offerings – 9th Sunday after Pentecost — August 7, 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 (\$5,868.50) YP (\$5)	\$5,873.50
Holy Days	199.00
Votive Candles	162.00
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	\$6,234.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$851.30
Holy Days	48.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvements (\$105)	125.00
Votive Candles	85.00
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	\$1,109.30

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (31)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)

Transfiguration, Blessing of grapes & fruits

Aug. 5, – Fri, (NS) 6:00 p.m. (11); Aug. 6 – Sat, (MR) 9:00 a.m. (14)



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

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 MOUNTAIN
 THAT
 FAITH
 CAN MAKE
 DISAPPEAR**

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Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
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**Come
 Join
 Us**

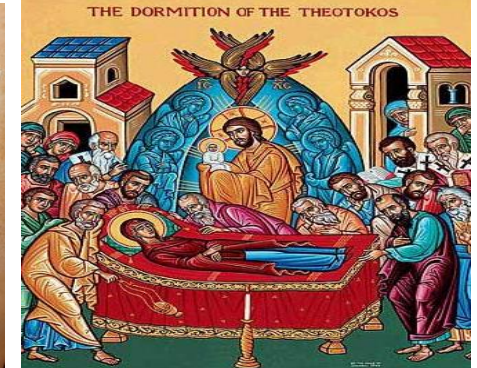
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prefestive of the Dormition — August 14, 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).

August 14, 2022 Seasonal Greeting Volume XII, Number 33



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Prefestive of the Dormition Feast



SUN., Aug 14 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy (birthday) Son: Kurt
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Sahayda Dgtr: Marlene "Mimi" Miskin

Great Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition — Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 p.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak Bernadette & Jim Gunkel Family

Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

Holy Day of Obligation — Solemn Blessing Flowers and Herbs — Mirovanije

MON, AUG 15 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary + Michael Korim (ann of passing) Nephew: Fr. Firko

Transposition of the Icon of Our Lord

Tue, Aug 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Ronald P. Larko (birthday) Julia A. & George F. Mosko

Wed, Aug 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Aaron Leshko (Memorial) Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(8th ann. of passing 8/18)

Archieparchial Altar Servers Faith & Fun Gathering — Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

This, Aug 18 * 11:00 a.m. (MR) + Poor Souls in Purgatory Bro. Regis, O.F.M.

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church

Fri, Aug 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Regina Mell Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

Sat, Aug 20 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 11th Sunday after Pentecost — Postfestive of Dormition Feast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Eleanor Kapko Elizabeth Prostudy

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Dormition Feast

SUN., Aug 21 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph W. Cehula Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen Meaders Family

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: Aug 16 – Janet Sendro; Aug 18 – Peter Zubritzky; Aug 1 – Anna Colbert, IRENE JUGAN; Aug 20 – Nina Bella Lecci.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, 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 Cifruk. Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.

ASHTON COMMONS (551 Cooper St., Wexford, PA 15090): Irene Bordas.

ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North St., PGH, PA 15212) NANCY GOGAL.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. How can I explain the Church's teaching on homosexuality to my friend in a way that won't make her hate the Church? She thinks it's an issue of the Church being judgmental and exclusionary and that it is wrong to condemn homosexuals to a life of involuntary celibacy. A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: Persons who suffer from homosexuality are called to chastity—as are we all. The Church recognizes that homosexuality is a disorder (see CCC 2357) and, while the desires are not in themselves sinful, acting out on them is clearly offensive to God (see Rom 1:26-27, 1 Cor 6:9-10). It is appropriate to judge homosexual acts as wrong. But far from being "exclusionary," the Church teaches that persons suffering from homosexuality "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition" (CCC 2358).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 14 — August 20, 2022

(MR): In memory of Anne Hrebenak (20th ann of passing 8/22)

offered by Anita, Sem. Luke & Anita Iyengar

(NS): In memory of Agnes & Anthony Knoll

All reserved for 2022

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) All reserved for 2022



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the recent and unexpected passing of Gladys Muska, 95, of West Deer Township at the UPMC St. Margaret Hospital, Aspinwall on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. She was the wife of the late Steven Muska, and Sister-In-Law of parishioner Michael Muska. The Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home, Blanox, handled arrangements. Funeral service was on Aug. 2. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Gladys, and remember her forever. *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!*



MAYOR OF KINGSTOWN SEASON II — *Paramount-Plus* has been shooting its Fall episodes in The Bottoms. Our Holy Ghost School has been solicited as a fictitious police station in the made-up city of Kingstown, MI. Our Church has not be part of this production. The movie is a crime and drama thriller with stars: Jeremy Renner, Diane Wiest and Hugh Dillion. Our Parish has been working with the Borough of McKees Rocks in permitting its facilities for this production.



CHURCH VOLUNTEERS GATHER TO CLEAN CHURCH LIBRARY NEXT WEEK —We will continue cleaning the church basement next week! We will gather on **Wednesday, August 24, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m. Please join us to complete this work.**

North Side

No particular news this week

ALTAR SERVER FAITH & FUN DAY THIS WEEK — The 2022 Faith & Fun Day for Archdiocesan Altar Servers will be this **Thursday, August 18th**. The day will begin at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, McKees Rocks, PA and end after the Pirates game verses the Boston Red Sox.. The schedule for the day is:



11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost Church.
12:30 p.m. Depart by bus to St. Anthony Chapel, Troy Hill for an organized tour. **1:45 p.m.** Depart for Dave & Busters (McKnight Road) for lunch and game play. **5:00 p.m.** Depart to PNC Park for the Pirate game. Following the game departure back to Holy Ghost Church for parental pick-up.

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 Sunday 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."*



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Do You Have A Mustard Seed Size Faith? (Mt 17: 14-23)

Faith that is the size of a mustard seed – even faith the size of the smallest seeds – is faith that can make a tree that can change the world. A person with faith the size of such a seed can be a full participant in God's plan. There is no minimum amount needed in order to be claimed by Christ. Your faith, no matter how weak and no matter how small is enough. So, don't be afraid to use your mustard seed faith, discover what you can do with the faith that you have, and practice using the faith that you have been given. If you do, you just might find that your tiny mustard seed faith will grow into something truly amazing! Faith is to live by entrusting oneself to God's promises. Faith is always God's gift and never our own accomplishment. Faith is ever and



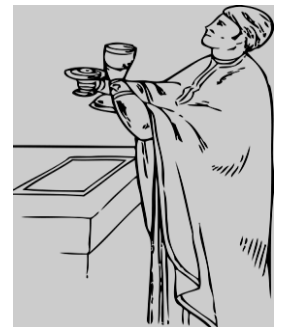
only a response empowered by an amazing grace originating from outside of our own efforts that enables us to entrust ourselves willingly to One we have found trustworthy. It is especially, through word and sacrament that God bestows this faith. The words of Jesus are not meant to emphasize an extraordinary physical phenomenon. Rather the contrast between the mountain and the grain of mustard seed stresses the infinite possibilities which are open to authentic faith. It is evident here that Jesus intends our faith to be something other than a simple intellectual adherence to revealed truth. Jesus speaks of faith as being a humble and total trust in the all-powerful goodness of God. If I have but a grain of authentic faith, I can risk making that faith the basis of my life in all circumstances, confident that God will grant the true and best solutions to all my difficulties. That would be my way of removing mountains.

FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

The importance of Sunday and Participating at the Divine Liturgy

The following article was written by a Catholic Apologist, Matt Nelson and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of Sunday and worshipping at the Divine Liturgy. Space does not permit the entire article.

Every Sunday "the whole Christ" is reunited in and through the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, our choice to participate is salvific: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Theologian Colin Donovan reminds us that "in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) it is Christ himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to his. In no other way is it possible to adequately give thanks (Eucharistic) to God . . . than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ himself." Christ does with us in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) what we cannot do alone: make a perfect offering to the Father. The key to understanding why Catholics must attend Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) lies above all in the essence of the Mass (Divine Liturgy) itself. Our duty to be willing participants **IS NOT rooted in how it makes us feel but in what it is.** As the sacred meeting place of God and man, the Mass (Divine Liturgy) reorients our lives towards God, reunites us with him in love, and thereby communicates the grace of salvation to our souls. In the long run, there can be nothing more productive than that.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 14 Anticipated Evening Feast of the Dormition (Obligatory) – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 7:00 pm
August 15 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
August 18 Archieparchial Altar Server & Pirate Game Outing (cf. General Announcements).
August 29 Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
September 1 Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
September 2-5 86th Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Marina.
September 5 Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday. Morning Divine Liturgy (MR) 9:00 a.m.

Commemoration of the Week

The Transposition of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople – Aug 16

During the time of the earthly ministry of the Savior, Abgar, ruler in the Syrian city of Edessa, was afflicted with leprosy. Reports of the great miracles performed by the Lord extended throughout Syria (Matt. 4:24) and as far as Arabia at this time. Although not having seen the Lord,



Abgar believed in him and wrote a letter requesting Christ to come and heal him. Abgar sent his court painter, Ananias, with this letter to Palestine telling him to paint an image of the Divine Teacher. Ananias was not able to go near Christ because of the great many people listening to his preaching. He attempted to produce an image of the Lord Jesus Christ from afar, but could not. The Lord called Ananias and promised to send his disciple in order to heal Abgar from the leprosy and instruct him in salvation. Then the Lord called for water and a towel. He wiped His face with the towel, and on it was His Divine Image. The Savior sent the towel and a letter to Edessa back with Ananias. With thanksgiving Abgar received the sacred objects and started healing. He

continued healing until the arrival of the disciple Thaddeus, Apostle of the 70. The Apostle preached the Gospel and baptized the Abgar and all living in Edessa. Having written on the Image Not-Made-By-Hands the words, Christ-God, everyone trusting in Thee will not be put to shame, Abgar adorned it and placing it over gates of the city. For many years it was venerated by those who passed through the gates. Edessa, a great-grandson of Abgar, fell into idolatry and was determined to remove the image. In a vision, the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to conceal the image. The bishop and his clergy at night, blocked up the niche with clay tablets and bricks inclosing with it a lit lampada. Many years passed by and the inhabitants forgot about the Holy Object. In the year 545, the Persian King Chroses I, besieged Edessa, and all seemed hopeless. But Bishop Evlavios was commanded by a vision of the Theotokos to get from the enclosed niche the image with which to save the city from the adversaries. Dismantling the niche, the Bishop found the Holy Image; before it burned the lampada and on the clay tablets, with which the niche had been enclosed, was a similar image. After preceding with the Cross and the Image Not-Made-By-Hands around the walls of the city, the Persian army miraculously departed. In 630, Edessa was seized by Arabs; but they did not hinder veneration of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. In 944 the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (912-59) requested that the Image be brought to the Capital of the Orthodox. With great honor the Image of the Savior Not-Made-By-Hands was brought by the clergy to Constantinople. On **August 16** the Image of the Savior was placed in the Pharos Church of the Most-Holy Theotokos. There are several traditions concerning the fate of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. One is that it was carried away by Crusaders during the time of their dominion over Constantinople (1204-61), but the ship on which Holy Objects had been taken, sank in the Sea of Marmora. Another is that the Image Not-Made-By-Hands was taken about 1362 to Genoa, where it was presented to and preserved in a monastery dedicated to the Apostle Bartholomew.

General Announcements

FEAST OF THE DORMITION TODAY — We are celebrating one of the most ancient Marian feasts of the early church — the **Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Theotokos**



and her Transference into Heaven *It is customary to bless flowers and herbs on this day.* This custom of the Church arose when the Holy Theotokos fell-asleep on Mount Zion and all of the apostles were miraculously transported back to Jerusalem with the exception of St. Thomas. Following the funeral procession along the Kidron Valley to the Gethsemane tomb, they returned to Mount Zion. Thomas later arrived and urged the apostles to take him to view and pray before the mortal remains. When then arrived at the tomb an aromatic fragrance of flowers and herbs filled the air near the spot when they laid her. Her most pure body was no longer present. Receiving a vision that she was transferred to heaven,

the apostles rejoiced and strengthened to proclaim the Good News of her beloved Son, Jesus. Following the Divine Liturgies flowers and herbs will be solemnly blessed as a thanksgiving offering. *Since flowers symbolize the beauty of Eternal Life, and herbs a healing remedy for the body, you may wish to take a blessed flower and place it on the grave(s) of your loved one(s) as a symbol of faith and a prayer that they may be resting in the eternal Kingdom of heaven.*

BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS NEXT WEEKEND — Following each of



the Divine Liturgies **next weekend of August 20 & 21, 2022** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the actual and/or virtual Academic Year of 2022-2023 in their various schools, colleges and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing comes the third weekend of August. Receive God's blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy. ***There is a RSVP for both teachers & students***

via phone call, or email if you plan to participate in this blessing by August 15.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS UNTIL ANNOUNCED — Until the 2023 Ecclesiastical Record Book arrives, the Church office will not be accepting intentions. An announcement will be appearing in a future edition of the S.O.T. when you may reserve your special date requests

Thank you for your patience.

PREPARING TO RECEIVE 2023 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES — Our contribution envelopes will be arriving shortly. The price per box escalates each year especially due to inflation. For those who haven't been contributing for the **past two years**, it indicates that you are not interested in receiving envelopes for the new year. In due respect, your name will be eliminated from distribution and placed on the inactive list. Please help your church meet its fiduciary responsibilities by using this investment responsibility.