

**Parish Offerings – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — August 21, 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 (\$2,340) YP (\$4)	.....	\$2,344.00
Holy Days (\$212) YP (\$2)	.....	214.00
Votive Candles (\$97) Initial (\$20)	.....	117.00
		\$2,675.00

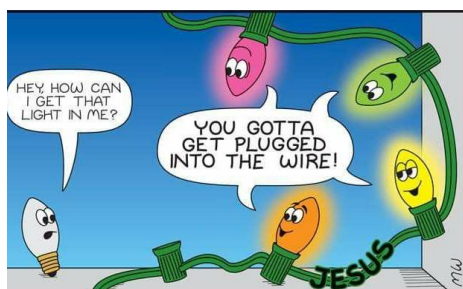
**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering	.....	\$832.00
Holy Days	.....	45.00
Votive Candles (\$30) Improvement (\$5)	.....	35.00
		\$912.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (79); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (20)



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 28, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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!



**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*

**Goodbye AUGUST**



**DESIGNS BY NANCY**

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**Virtual 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.**



# 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 28, 2022

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XII, Number 35



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Aug 28 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kulka Children: Kathy & John.  
(16<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/26)  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Andrew Gecy, Sr. (70<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/6) Grandson: Robert & Joyce

**Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist, John — Simple Holy Day**  
Traditional Day of Strict Abstinence (no meat or dairy) — RECOMMENDED  
SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (No Meat) & no serving or eating on a platter or dish

Mon, Aug 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mike Pungras Dgtr: + Anna Marie Demianczak

Tue, Aug 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Irene Simko Son: David & Lisa  
**Deposition of the Sacred Belt of the Theotokos**

Wed, Aug 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Milo James Perreault Wife: Karen

### Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical Year — The Year of the Indiction

This, Sept 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowatch Anne Myers

**First Friday of the Month — Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus**  
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

Fri, Sept 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George E. Kraly (63<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing) Zula Family

**First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Sat, Sept 3 \*8:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
10:00 a.m. (NS) + Dolores Hudanick (Memorial & Christian Burial)

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — Labor Day Weekend

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Fr. Ronald P. Larko Theresa Kundrat

### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Mount St. Macrina Pilgrimage — Labor Day Weekend

SUN, Sept 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna Daughters  
(Commemorating 100th birthday)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Br. Thomas Sommerfield Family  
(4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

## 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 29 – William Babin, Judith Bercik; Aug 31 – David Burns, Melissa Wenger; Sept 1 – Joseph Babin.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, NANCY GOGAL, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, 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.  
ASHTON COMMONS (551 Cooper St., Wexford, PA 15090): Irene Bordas.

#### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What if I don't feel like going to the Divine Liturgy? A. Catholic Apologist, Michelle Arnold: If going to the Divine Liturgy is about getting together once a week with a group of people to sing, say some prayers, and have coffee and doughnuts after, it would be understandable for someone to feel like he might have better ways to spend his Sunday mornings. But that isn't why Catholics go to the Divine Liturgy. **We go because the Divine Liturgy is the re-presentation in time and space of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. Christ's passion, death, and resurrection are made present on the altar during the Divine Liturgy.** By attending, congregants are gathering around their Lord's Cross, much in the same way some of his disciples chose to do on that first Great Friday (the rest broke and ran). When we are present at the Divine Liturgy, we are standing vigil with the Lord in his agony, worshipping him, and receiving him sacramentally in Communion. If Christians do not "feel like" being present for that, can they possibly consider themselves disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ?

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Aug. 28 — Sept. 3, 2022

(MR): In memory of Elizabeth Petruna (100<sup>th</sup> birthday observed)

offered by Daughters

(NS): In memory of Amelia & Frank T. Firko

All reserved for 2022

offered by Son: Fr. Firko

(NS) All reserved for 2022

# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the unexpected passing of parishioner, **Dolores “Dolly” (Bordas) Kosko, 85**, on Monday, August 22, 2022



at UPMC Mercy, Pittsburgh. She resided on Neville Island. She is survived by her husband, Stephen A. Kosko, and two daughters, Valerie (Kevin) Cooney, and Diane Kosko. The Thomas Copeland Funeral Home, Coraopolis, handled the arrangements. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was on Friday, Aug. 26 at 10:00 a.m. Interment was at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. Our Parish extends it's most sincere condolences and prayerful support to the Kosko-Cooney Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, to your servant, Dolores, and remember her forever! *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat!*

**MAYOR OF KINGSTOWN SEASON II** — *Paramount-Plus* will be shooting its fall episode, once again, this Tuesday, August 30, on our Holy Ghost School premises.

## North Side

**ROOFERS RETURN TO FIX ADDITIONAL LEAKS** — Following a heavy downpour last week, the McChesney Lueck Roofing, LLC was contacted to inspect where the three water leaks were occurring. Hopefully, the problem has been fixed!?!

**FUNERAL THIS WEEK** — A Funeral Memorial Divine Liturgy for + Dolores Hudanick will take place this Saturday, September 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Internment will then take place at Christ Our Redeemer Cemetery, Cemetery Lane, North Side.

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## Determine Reception of Holy Communion

(cont. from this edition's article)

A mortal sin is a grievous offense against God that deprives the sinner of sanctifying grace, which is the supernatural life of the soul (1 Jn 5:16-17; CCC 1855). It also makes the person an enemy of God, takes away the merits of one's good action done in a state of serious sin, and deprives one of the sanctifying grace necessary for salvation (Rom 1:18; Prv 15:9; CCC 1861).

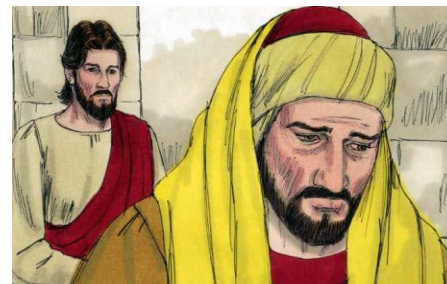
To commit a mortal (or deadly) sin, there are three conditions that must be present: (1) The thought, word, action, or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong. (2) The sinner needs to know that it is seriously wrong. (3) The sinner must give full consent of the will in choosing the sin (CCC 1857, 1874).

At our Holy Ghost Church, we have a confession guide available of the confession prayers and an examination of conscience, if you cannot locate it, ask for a copy). As you become more sensitive to God's laws (through prayer, study and frequent reception of the sacraments), you will know almost immediately when you have committed a serious offense.

# TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Jesus offers the same challenge today As He offered the Rich Man in today's Gospel (Matthew 19: 16-26)

The great truth of this story lies in the way it illumines the meaning of eternal life. Eternal life is life such as God himself lives. The word for eternal is *aiouios*, which



does not mean lasting or ever; it means such as befits God, or such as belongs to God, or such as is characteristic of God. The great characteristic of God is that He so loved and He gave. Therefore, the essence of eternal life is not a carefully calculated keeping of the commandments and the rules and the regulations; **eternal life is based on an**

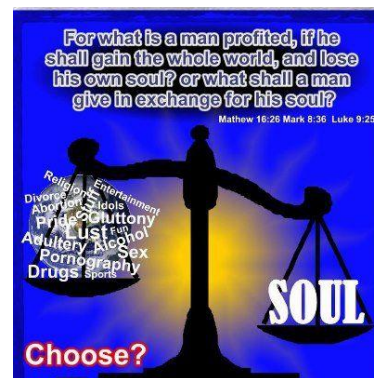
**attitude of loving and sacrificial generosity to our fellow-men.** If we would find eternal life, if we would find happiness, joy, satisfaction, peace of mind and serenity of heart, it shall not be by piling up a credit balance with God through keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations; it shall be through reproducing God's attitude of love and care to our fellow-men. To follow Christ and in grace and generosity to serve the men for whom Christ died are one and the same thing. In the end the young man turned away in great distress. He refused the challenge, because he had great possessions. His tragedy was that he loved things more than he loved people; and he loved himself more than he loved others. Any man who puts things before people and self before others, must turn his back on Jesus Christ.

## How do you Determine if you can receive Holy Communion or not?

By your examining your conscience to determine, as best as you can,

whether you are in the state of grace. If you have committed any mortal sins that have not been confessed, you ARE NOT in the state of grace (1 Cor 11:28). If you are in the state of grace, you can and should receive the Eucharist. If you are not, you should not receive it. To do so would be the sin of sacrilege (1 Cor 11:27; CCC 1385).

As you grow in the spiritual life, you will generally find it is easier to determine whether you have committed any mortal sins (1 Jn 3:19-24, 4:13). In the meantime, here is a



quick lesson on what constitutes a mortal sin. (article continues in this edition).

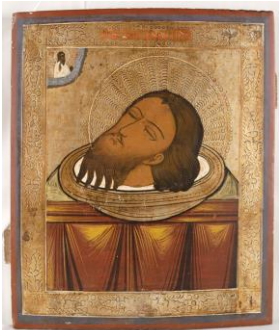
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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	.....	86 <sup>th</sup> Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Marina.
September 5	.....	Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday. Morning Divine Liturgy (MR) 9:00 a.m.
September 8	.....	Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos (Solemn Holy Day)– (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
September 11	.....	Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm
September 14	.....	Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross (Solemn Holy Day) Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes prior for the Solemn Enthronement of the Holy Cross — (MR) 8:45 a.m.; (NS) 5:45 p.m.
September 18	.....	Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year
October 1	.....	Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province. (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

## Simple Holy Day This Week

### Beheading of St. John the Baptist — August 29

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time when John the Baptist was preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip, danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though it be half of his kingdom. Being persuaded by her mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist.



Herod gave the order and **John was beheaded in prison and his head brought to him on a platter.** John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evil doers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Passover but its celebration on *August 29 was established because*, on that day, a church which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed. **Divine Liturgies Wednesday, Aug. 29 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 7:00 p.m. In the spirit of this feast try to avoid eating from a dish or platter, but use a humble paper plate. The founders and benefactors of our Churches ate from the kitchen pots and pans on this day in St. John's honor! Some did not cut anything that resembled a head (eg. cabbage, lettuce, even a tomato) with a knife!**

## General Announcements

**ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR COMMENCES THIS WEEK** — Our Church marks the commencement of a brand New Year **Thursday, Sept. 1.** It is referred to as THE YEAR OF INDICTION. In the Byzantine Empire 312 AD., the civil year began on Sept. 1. An "indiction" was a reoccurring cycle of 15 years and used for determining periods of time. *It is believed that Jesus began his public Ministry on this day.* Thus, the Byzantine Catholic Church continues to commemorate a new liturgical year at this time! **Let us make a resolution to attend ALL SUNDAYS & HOLY DAYS in this NEW (CHURCH) YEAR!**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR 88TH PILGRIMAGE - MOUNT ST. MACRINA** — It is our prayer that you can join **the 88th Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from September 2 through the 5.** If you have never attended a pilgrimage before, you are encouraged to make this one which contains a myriad of graces. If you are experiencing any difficulties or problems, or just wish to thank God through Mary for an answered prayer, take them to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and lay them at her feet.



**NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** — Our *Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.)* Classes will be commencing enrollment in the next few weeks. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration which follows all Divine Liturgies beginning next week. Due to the continued pandemic, adjustments will also be available. All classes begin on **Catechetical Sunday, September 18, 2022** following the 9:00 a.m. (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Contact Coordinator, Steve Puluka (412) 897-4650.



**AN ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS** — Our parishes have been opened and have been following the regular schedule of liturgical services. If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) and desire to return, be assured you may continue to wear masks. However, if you would like the pastor to make a sacramental visitation, **please phone the parish office** and set a time when Father may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS ARE VITALLY ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul!



**STILL AWAITING THE DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY RECORD BOOK FOR 2023** — 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. Again, thank you for your patience.

