

Parish Offerings – 7th Sunday after Pentecost — July 24, 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 (\$2,176) YP (\$9)	\$2,185.00
Holy Days (\$162) YP (\$4)	166.00
Votive Candles	96.00
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	\$2,447.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$595.00
Holy Days	5.00
Utilities	40.00
Votive Candles	82.61
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	\$722.61

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (24)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (69); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)



...to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. — COLOSSIANS 2:2-3 KJV



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 31, 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!

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

Let FREEDOM Ring

DESIGNS BY NANCY

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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.



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

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 31, 2022

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XII, Number 31



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

8th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Jul 31 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Sandra Derrick Anonymous
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Marie Demianczyk Andrea Warden
(40th day of passing 7/28)



Commencement of the 14-day Savoral Fast (Spasovka) cf. article

Mon, Aug 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Fredric Mell Sister: Regina Mell

Tue, Aug 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Gutilla + Supna + Ribarchak Families Family

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

Wed, Aug 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Lester Best Nancy, Jenő & Nina Lecci

Thrs, Aug 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Sister Vladimir, O.S.B.M. MaryEllen & John Oslick

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): for the intention of
our beloved's return to the Church

Fri, Aug 5 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William H. Zavidny Nancy & T. Hewitt

Anticipated DL for the Transfiguration Feast — Solemn Blessing of Grapes & other Fruits

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary (Danks) Sisak Michael B. Sisak Family

Transfiguration of Our Lord, God & Savior

Jesus Christ — Solemn Holy Day

Solemn Blessing of Grapes & Other Fruits — Mirovanije

First Saturday of the Month — Reparation for the blasphemies against Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sat, Aug 6 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 9th Sunday after Pentecost — Postfestive of Transfiguration

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Irene Bilak (14th ann of passing 8/11) Leyte, Mike, Alex & Linda

9th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Aug 7 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna Forsmark & Podsiady Families
(3rd ann of passing 8/2)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Frances Pungras Sister: + Anna Demianczyk

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 4 – Bernice Herrick; Aug 5 – Peter Stecko, Judy Wovchko.

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 Cifrutlak, Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.

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

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. How can I convince my friend that contraception is forbidden not only within marriage but outside it? She says Humanae Vitae (a papal encyclical on Human Life) is against birth control only in marriage. **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Humanae Vitae is explicit in its teaching against artificial birth control, and yes, the context is marriage. But Humanae Vitae itself answers the question: Hence, one who reflects well must also recognize that a reciprocal act of love that jeopardizes the responsibility to transmit life that God the Creator, according to particular laws, inserted therein, is in contradiction with the design constitutive of marriage, and the will of the Author or life. To use this divine gift destroying, even if only partially, its meaning and its purpose is to contradict the nature both of man and of woman and of their intimate relationship, and therefore it is to contradict also the plan of God. (HV13). These two sentences teach that anything that destroys the meaning of the "reciprocal act of love"—in this case contraception—is contrary to God. The Catechism calls these actions "intrinsically evil" (CCC 2370), meaning that it is evil in and of itself: It is always objectively evil, regardless of the context (within marriage or outside of it) in which it is carried out. The Church also teaches that sex outside of marriage is contrary to the will of God and destroys the true purpose of the act (cf. CCC 2353). Therefore, if one uses birth control while engaging in sex outside of marriage, the individual is compounding one sin with another.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

July 31 — August 6, 2022

(MR): In memory of Loretta & Andrew Yakubik

offered by Dgtr: Evelyn

(NS): In memory of the Smoley & Sotak Families

All reserved for 2022

offered by Mary Ann Smoley

(NS) All reserved for 2022



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO CLEAN CHURCH LIBRARY TEMPORARILY POSTPONED — Work continues in the basement of the Church will cleaning, painting, etc. Many cannot be there this week, so watch the S.O.T. for the date of our next work day. Thank you, once again, for all who have been present for this task.

MAYOR OF KINGSTON SEASON II — *Paramount-Plus* is shooting its Fall episodes in The Bottoms. Our Holy Ghost School has been solicited to be a fictitious police station in the made-up city of Kingston, MI. Our Church will not be part of this production. After reviewing the proposal, our PAC/FAC Council thought that it would be good if legal counsel would give satisfactory approval since it would bring in extra revenue for the Church. The movie contract was given to the archiepiscopal lawyer who highlighted changes and considerations, and was then presented to their lawyers. The movie is a crime and drama thriller with stars: Jeremy Renner, Diane Wiest and Hugh Dillion. The tentative date continuing production will be Wednesday, August 10, 2022.



North Side

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner, **Dolores Hudanick, Sr., 91**, of Shaler Township who passed away at The Haven at North Hills, on Sunday, July 21, 2022. The Bock Funeral Home, LTD on Mt. Royal Blvd, Shaler Township, are handling the arrangements. She was married to her beloved late husband the late + George, Sr. for 68 years. She is survived by her children: George, Jr, Paul (Elaine) and Janet (Ted) Benko. Also, she is survived by her grandchildren. A Memorial Divine Liturgy will be offered later this summer at Holy Ghost Church. Interment will be next to her husband at Christ Our Redeemer Cemetery, Cemetery Lane, North Side.



Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathy to the Hudanick & Benko Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Dolores, and remember her forever! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat'!

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 which terminates TODAY, July 31.**



A CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE EUCHARIST

(This article has appeared on the Catholic Answers webpage in July 2022, and is reprinted with permission in an abridged format to fit on this page. If you wish to visit the webpage the internet address is www.catholic.com).

The Holy Eucharist is the most important of the seven sacraments because, in this and in no other sacrament, we receive the very body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Innumerable, precious graces come to us through the reception of Holy Communion.... Holy Communion is an intimate encounter with Christ... Christ in the Eucharist also strengthens the individual because in it Jesus himself, the Word made flesh, forgives our venial sins and gives us the strength to resist mortal sin. The Catholic Church sets out specific guidelines



regarding how we should prepare ourselves to receive the Lord's body and blood in Communion. First, you must be in a state of grace. (1 Cor. 11:27–28). This is an absolute requirement that can never be dispensed. To receive the Eucharist without sanctifying grace in your soul profanes the Eucharist in the most grievous manner.

A mortal sin is any sin whose matter is grave and which has been committed willfully and with knowledge of its seriousness. Grave matter includes, but is not limited to, murder, receiving or participating in an abortion, homosexual acts, having sexual intercourse outside of marriage or in an invalid marriage, and deliberately engaging in impure thoughts (Matt. 5:28–29), deliberately missing the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, failure to fulfill an Easter Duty, etc. Scripture contains lists of mortal sins (for example, 1 Cor. 6:9–10 and Gal. 5:19–21). For further information on what constitutes a mortal sin, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Church's ancient teaching on this particular matter is expressed in the Didache, an early Christian document written around A.D. 70, which states: "Whosoever is holy [i.e., in a state of sanctifying grace], let him approach. Whosoever is not, let him repent" (Didache 10). ***(Insert provided by the pastor: When approaching, one is to place their hands in the form of an "X" upon their chest, which is the Greek initial for Christ whom you are welcoming into your heart, tilt your head back slightly, open the mouth wide, do not extend the tongue, and do not bite down on the spoon. The Byzantine tradition is not to respond "Amen." . Move to the side and make a sign of the Cross in thanksgiving of the reception.***

You must believe in the doctrine of Transubstantiation. Transubstantiation means more than the Real Presence. According to Transubstantiation, the bread and wine are actually transformed into the actual body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ, and only the appearances of bread and wine remain. Also, one must observe the Eucharistic fast. Canon law states, "One who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion". Elderly people, those who are ill, and their caretakers are excused from the Eucharistic fast.... Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Communion.

Finally, after receiving Communion, it is appropriate to stay after the Divine Liturgy and thank Jesus for the privilege of sacramentally coming to you in the Holy Eucharist.

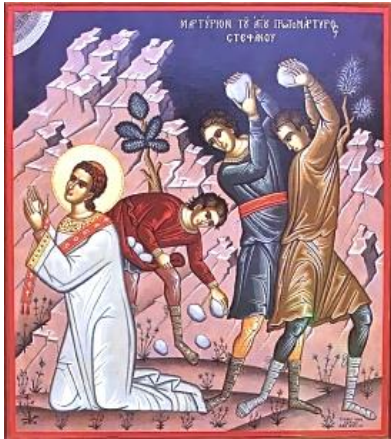
Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 5 Anticipated Transfiguration DL w/ the blessing of fruits & grapes (NS) 6:00 p.m.
August 6 ... Transfiguration DL (Solemn HD) w/ the blessing of fruits and grapes (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
August 14 **Holy Day of Obligation** — Feast of the Dormition – 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 Archeparchial 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.

Saint of the Week — August 2

THE FINDING AND THE TRANSPOSITION OF THE RELICS OF ST. STEPHEN, THE ARCHDEACON AND PROTO-MARTYR

When the wicked Jews slew St. Stephen by stoning, they left his body for the dogs to consume. However, God's Providence intended otherwise. The martyr's body lay in an open place at the foothill of the city for one night and two days. The second night Gamaliel, Paul's teacher and secretly a disciple of Christ, came and removed the body and took it to Caphargamala on his estate and there he honorably buried it in a cave. Gamaliel also buried his friend Nicodemus who died weeping over the grave of Stephen in the same cave. Gamaliel also buried his baptized son Abibus there and according to his will, was buried there also. Since that time, many centuries passed and no one living knew where the body of St. Stephen was buried. However, in the year 415 A.D. during the reign

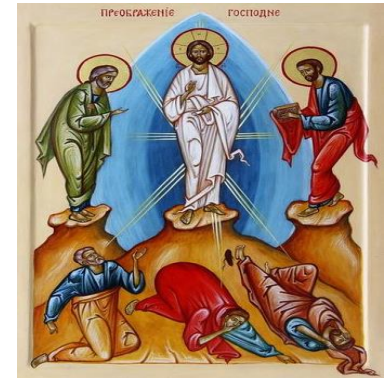


of John, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Gamaliel appeared three times in a dream to Lucian, the priest at Caphargamala and, at length, related everything to him concerning the burial of all the afore-mentioned showing him the exact spot of their forgotten graves. Excited by this dream Lucian informed the patriarch and with his blessing went with a group of men and exhumed the four graves. Gamaliel had already told him in the dream whose grave was which. A strong sweet-smelling fragrance from the relics of the saints permeated the entire cave. The relics of St. Stephen were then solemnly translated to Zion and honorably buried there and the relics of the remaining three were moved to a hill above the cave and were placed in a church. That day, many healings of the sick occurred by the relics of St. Stephen. Later on, St. Stephen's relics were translated to Constantinople. Thus, the Lord crowned him for glorifying His Holy Name as he shed his blood in martyrdom.

Holy Archdeacon Stephen, pray to God for us!

General Announcements

TRANSFIGURATION: A SOLEMN HOLY DAY — Christian theology assigns a great deal of significance to the Transfiguration, based on multiple elements of the narrative. In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth. The Transfiguration not only supports the identity of Jesus as the Son of God (as in his Baptism), but the statement "listen to him", identifies him as the messenger and mouth-piece of God. The significance of this identification is enhanced by the presence of Elijah and Moses, for it indicates to the apostles that Jesus is the voice of God "par excellence", and instead of Elijah or Moses, he should be listened to, surpassing the laws of Moses by virtue of his filial relationship with God. In 2 Peter 1:16–18, echoes the same message: at the Transfiguration God assigns to Jesus a special "honor and glory" and it is the turning point at which God exalts Jesus above all other powers in creation, and positions him as ruler and judge. The Transfiguration also echoes the teaching by Jesus (as in Matthew 22:32) that God is not "the God of the dead, but of the living". Although Moses had died and Elijah had been taken up to heaven centuries before (as in 2 Kings 2:11), they now live in the presence of the Son of God, implying that the same return to life can apply to all who face death and have faith. The faithful bring **Grapes and other fruits of the summer harvest will be blessed. From grapes come the wine at which the transfigured Jesus appears in the Eucharistic Form; and the fruits symbol God's bounty to us His people and His desire to feed us.**



PENITENTIAL PERIOD IN PREPARATION FOR THE DORMITION FEAST — During this fourteen-day penitential period referred to as the "Savioral Fast," (since it falls within the Savior's Transfiguration), the Church prescribes the Paraklis Service be held in honor of the Mother of God. The word "paraklis" has two different meanings: the first is "consolation," from which the Holy Spirit is called the "Paraclete," or "Consoler"; the second is "supplication" or "petition". The Paraklis Service consists of supplication hymns to obtain consolation and courage. It should be recited in times of temptation, discouragement or sickness. It is used more particularly during the two weeks before the Dormition of the Theotokos, from **August 1 to August 14**. The theme of this Paraklis Services centers around the petition. "Most Holy Mother of God, save us." *Following each of the daily Divine Liturgies we will offer a portion of this service for all our family, relatives and friends who have left our church so that they may return for the sake of their salvation.*

GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING TODAY — The 3rd quarterly meeting will be held **IN PERSON TODAY, July 31, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are expected to participate. We would like to have a count of all who will be attending. Please phone Steve Puluka @ (412) 897-4650, and let him know that you will be in attendance.

