

Parish Offerings – 13th Sunday after Pentecost — September 4, 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 (\$2,710) YP (\$1)	\$2,711.00
Holy Days (\$167) YP (\$1)	168.00
Votive Candles	64.75
	\$2,943.75

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$563.00
Holy Days	35.00
Special Donation (Memorial of + Dolores Hudanick by Family)	100.00
Votive Candles (\$62) Utilities (\$30) Improvement (\$15)	107.00
	\$805.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (20)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (51); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)

Labor Day Monday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (6)

Nativity of the Theotokos — Thrs (MR) 9:00 a.m. (6); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (11)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross
September 11, 2022



“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:14-15)

The salvation Jesus fulfilled at the cross is available to us under certain condition. Which are the steps to be saved?

1. Recognizing my need.
2. Repenting.
3. Believing in Jesus.
4. Accepting Jesus' righteousness.
5. Following Jesus.

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**

<p>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 <i>Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953</i></p>	<p>OH, NO....NOT AGAIN!</p>	<p>DESIGNS BY NANCY</p> <p>235 McCartney Drive, Moon Township 15108 Phone: (412) 262-9141 Nanode@aol.com</p> <p>Nancy C. Debranski <i>Sewing, Alterations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts</i></p>
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<p>GCU Greek Catholic Union of the USA A Fraternal Benefit Society</p> <p>NWPL offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Tina (412) 859-9597</p>	<p>Handyman Services</p> <p>North Side Parishioner Alan Valeriano (412) 638-3417 PA #172378</p>	<p>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.</p>
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<p>Sunday Divine Liturgies Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm Sunday (MR) 9: 00 am Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Holy Day Divine Liturgies w/Great Vespers (Oblig) (MR): 7:00 pm Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Daily Divine Liturgy M-F (MR) 8:00 am Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.</p>
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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).

September 11, 2022 Seasonal Greeting Volume XII, Number 37

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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos
& Sunday Before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia M. Sotak (3rd ann of passing) Dgtr: Elaine
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. Valeriano & Kallop Families
(11th ann of passing 9/15)

Final Day of the Theotokos Nativity Feast

Mon, Sept 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Muska (birthday) Bro: Mike & Michael Muska

Prefestive of the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

Tue, Sept 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) or an
Equivalent Penance — Solemn Holy Day

Wed, Sept 14 * 8:50 a.m. (MR) + Rose Debranski (18th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy
* 5:50 p.m. (NS) Commendation of Infant: + Nicole Elena Ringes (24th ann of passing 9/17) Baba: + Anna

* Commences 10 minutes earlier for Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross

Thrs, Sept 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Norma Kacsur Joseph Cehula, T.O. Carm.

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

Fri, Sept 16  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak Kulka & Wickline Families

Sat, Sept 17 9:00 a.m. (NS) Special Intention Anonymous

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 15th Sunday after Pentecost — Postfestive of Precious Cross

4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Dorothy Billy (birthday 9/19) Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Betty Mowery (13th ann of passing 9/20) Valeriano & Kallop Families

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: **Sept 11** – Donna Herron; Katherine Leasure, JOHN NEWPORT; **Sept 13** – Adam Leasure; **Sept 14** – Derrick Burns; **Sept 15** – SHIRLEY KALNAS, Norma Kacsur, Maryann Puluka; **Sept 16** – MARY FRANCES SPONTAK; **Sept 17** – Audrey Wenger.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, NANCY GOGAL, Iona 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.

UPMC PRESBYTERIAN (200 Lothrop St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213): David Bubalo.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why do we use our right hand instead of our left hand to make the sign of the cross? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The right hand, probably in part due to the fact that most people are right-handed, is traditionally the hand of blessing and greeting in many cultural settings, a convention found in Scripture and Tradition. For example, Jesus places the sheep on his right hand but the goats on his left; he himself is "seated at the right hand of the Father"; at God's "right hand are blessings forevermore"; and so on. In sacred images, Jesus is depicted raising his right hand in blessing. Even today, we use our right hand for handshakes or salutes; we are familiar with the phrase "the right hand of fellowship" and so forth. By contrast, the left hand has in many cultures a very different set of traditional associations (for example, it is often designated for personal hygiene; the word sinister is derived from the Latin for left-handed; etc.). For all these reasons, it is natural that the sign of the cross has traditionally been made with the right hand.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 11 — Sept. 17, 2022

(MR): In memory of Rose A. Debranski (18th ann of passing 9/14)

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS): In memory of Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (11th ann of passing 9/11)

(MR) All reserved for 2022 offered by Grandchildren (NS) All reserved for 2022

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

A DOUBLE GRATITUDE RECOGNITION TO FLOWER DONARS AT THE HOLY THEOTOKOS ICON — During the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos and its Postfestive celebration, two anonymous donors graciously contributed flowers to our Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis. May God richly bless you for this sacrificial gesture, and may the Holy Virgin always extend her veil of protection over you and your beloved! Symbolically, we can all donate "flowers of prayer" each time that we meditate and pray the Holy Rosary, Akathist or Moleben.

TOWER BELLS READY TO SWING — Our towers bells have been out of commission for the past year. Due to a lightening surge last August 2021, the circuit controller board was destroyed. The Verdin Bell Company, Cincinnati, OH, did not have the repair personnel to dispatch service so we have chosen another vender to look at the problem. Another setback occurred with our insurance company for them to determine whether they would cover the damage. Following a lengthy period of time, they determined that there was indeed a lightening surge in the area, and that our insurance would cover the misfortune. We are grateful for divine intervention. This past Thursday and Friday repairs were in the process of being completed.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PURCELL FAMILY — A new family arrival has recently occurred with the birth of **Eugene Victor Purcell** on Friday, Sept. 2. The Purcell's are members of our Holy Ghost Parish. It was suggested by parishioner, Melissa Wegner with the following request: *"I just set up a meal train to help the Purcell Family with some meals to celebrate baby Eugene and to help during this transition period. Is there any chance you could share it in a bulletin and/or in an email? The link to share at which people can sign up is: mealtrain.com/q5len8. May God grant to Eugene Victor, health & happiness for many blessed years. Na Mnohaja l Blahaja L'ita!*

North Side

BAKELESS BAKE SALE & 50/50 RAFFLE FOR HALLOWEEN — We are launching these two social activities in time for Halloween. All the income will be matched by the GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge. Tickets will be available at next weekend's Divine Liturgy. If you wish to contribute to the Bakeless Bake Sale, place you donation in a white envelope with your name, envelope number, and amount. Both the Raffle and Bakeless Bake Sale will terminate on Sunday, October 30. The proceeds will be applied to our Tower Bell Project.



ESTIMATES BEING SOUGHT FOR OUR OUTSIDE CHURCH STEPS & REPAIR FOR TOWER BELLS — Our front steps are slowly crumbling away. We are in the process of seeking repair bids. At the same time, while having our McKees Rocks Tower Bells repaired, the White's Clock & Carillon Northeast Inc., are inspecting our North Side Tower Bells to see what can be accomplished to get them functioning again. We haven't had functioning bells for several years already.

SUNDAY BEFORE THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION OF PRECIOUS CROSS

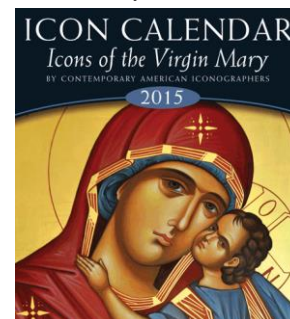
Gospel meditation: John 3:13-17 teaches that Jesus: Not a Man sent from God, but God come as Man

The one thing about Jesus that impressed the crowds (Mt. 7:28-29) and irritated the Jewish leaders (Mt. 9:1:23) was that He taught and acted with authority. The basic issue for a Pharisee like Nicodemus was the authority of Jesus. Nicodemus was willing to grant, by virtue of the signs performed by our Lord that Jesus was a man sent from God, but this was not nearly enough. Jesus was God sent as a man. Our Lord's heavenly origin set him apart from every other Israelite, even the great men such as Abraham, Moses and the prophets: "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of man!" (Jn 3:13). This is why Jesus was qualified to speak to Nicodemus of 'heavenly things' (v. 12)—He is the only one come down from heaven. He is the Son of Man. In my opinion, our Lord employed the term 'Son of Man' with reference to Himself with the specific intent of identifying Himself with the Messiah, referred to in Daniel 7:13 as the 'Son of Man'. Neither Nicodemus nor anyone else can give sufficient heed to the words of our Lord Jesus, until they have come to grips with His person. He is God come as man. Once that is settled, men must heed His teaching.



Holy Days Important to be Celebrated

In the liturgical calendar of the Church, Holy Days play an important part and should be celebrated by the faithful. Each event reminds us of the importance of the salvific happenings which took place. It transcends space and time through the liturgical expression, and manifests God's goodness to us as they gradually reveal His salvific plan for us. Our Byzantine Catholic Church ranks Holy Days in three classifications: **(1) Obligation; (2) Solemn; & (3) Simple**. The first precept of the Church **does oblige** us to come together and celebrate the salvific event. Solemn and Simple encourage us to do the same. *However, Solemn and Simple Holy Days are not a free ticket to avoid gathering and glorifying them. We should attend these Liturgical Services unless we are seriously impeded not by obligation but by love and gratitude.*



Please make every effort in this new liturgical year to attend all or at least several Solemn and Simple Holy Days and enrich your souls with God's grace that awaits you. Our dual purpose in attending is not to be entertained but to (1) worship and praise God for all that He has done and continues to do for us through His mercy and compassion; and (2) allow Him to act by feeding us with His Word and Eucharist. If we have not done so already, let us begin this week with the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross. *The Solemn Enthronement of Holy Cross begins 10 minutes earlier on Wednesday morning and evening.*

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.

Solemn Holy Day This Week – Sept. 14 Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross



Two events in connection with the Precious Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Holy Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Life-Creating Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land in the 4th century, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Precious Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of

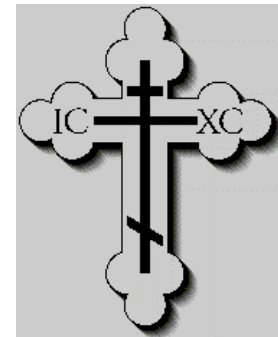
Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarios told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zachariah saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.

**We bow (+) to Your Cross O Lord,
and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection!**

General Announcements

A Short Explanation of the Three-Bar Cross

The Three-Bar Cross is used by those worshipping in Byzantine-Slavic Churches, namely Byzantine Catholics. As Ruthenian (Rusyn) Byzantine Catholics, we count the horizontal bars and not the vertical beam. There are 2 perspectives of its meaning: (1) the top bar contains the name that Pilate chose to be placed over Jesus' head: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"; the bottom bar, the foot-stool, is seen slanted indicating the direction of the Repentant Good Thief who went upwards to Paradise; and the downward direction that the Unrepentant Thief who went to hell. (2) Another common explanation is seen from the perspective of two original apostles who gave their lives for Jesus and were also crucified. The top bar represents the cross of St. Peter, who requested to be crucified upside down, not deeming himself worthy to die in the same manner as His Lord; and the bottom bar is in the form of an "X" referred to as the St. Andrew's Cross, who was put to death in this manner. We should wear and hang the Three-Bar Cross as the trophy of our salvation and as a witness to others that God loves them and seeks their salvation.



ARCHDIOCESE HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS — Today, Archbishop Skurla will be honoring all Byzantine Catholic Wedding Jubilarians marking the special milestones this year at St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA at 3:00 p.m. Our Holy Ghost Parishioner-Jubilarians, whose names were submitted and included in the celebration were: (MR) Dolores & Theodore Babin (70); (MR) Barbara & William Lutz (50); (MR) Elissa & Dennis Uram (50); (NS) Leslie Marie & Paul Bodnarchuk (40); (MR) Tina & David Burns (40); ((MR) Elaine & Edward Cassidy (40); (MR) Barbara & Lee Feldman (40); (MR) Dorothy & Andrew Hrishenko (40); (MR) Bernadette & James Gunkel (35); (MR) Kathryn & William Kress (30); (MR) Kathleen & Kurt Marks (30); (MR) Leyte & Michael Tomchak (30); (MR) Susan & Paul Zubritzky (30); (MR) Lauren & Albert Kovacs, Jr. (10); (NS) Alice & Gerald Slagle (10);. Thank you for your faithful witness!! May God grant to our Parishioner-Jubilarians health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

ACCEPTING NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES — Our *Eastern Christian Formation* (E.C.F.) Classes is accepting enrollment to this year's Religious Education Classes. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration follows all Divine Liturgies beginning today. All classes begin next Sunday – **Catechetical Sunday, September 18, 2022** following the 9:00 a.m. (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program that assists you as main catechists for your children! Call Coordinator, Steve Pulka (412) 897-4650.



McKees Rocks Bridge undergoes reconstruction this week