

**Parish Offerings – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — September 11, 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 (\$1,768) YP (\$7)	.....	\$1,775.00
Holy Days	.....	303.00
Votive Candles	.....	80.00
		<hr/>
		\$2,158.00

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering	.....	\$676.50
Holy Days	.....	31.00
Improvement	.....	10.00
Votive Candles	.....	79.50
		<hr/>
		\$797.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (71); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)

Universal Elevation of Cross — Wed (MR) 9:00 a.m. (16); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (15)



**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*

**Happy Fall!**  
 SUDDENLY IT'S AUTUMN...

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**WINTHALL 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 office.

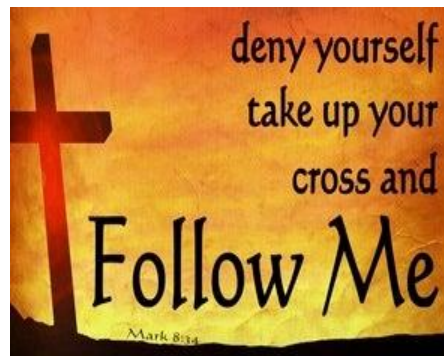
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross  
 September 18, 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!

# 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 18, 2022      Seasonal Greeting      Volume XII, Number 38



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date      Time      Intention      Requested By

### 15<sup>th</sup> 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 (13<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/20) Dgtr: Barbara "Babs"

Mon, Sept 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Robert Kundrat Mom: Theresa  
(18<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

Tue, Sept 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Muska Family + Gladys Muska

#### Final Day of the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

Wed, Sept 21 8:00 a.m. (NS) Health of James Lautenschlager Wife: Marge & Family

#### First Day of Autumn

Thrs, Sept 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Pungras Dgtr: + Anna Demianczyk.

#### Conception of St. John the Baptist

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

Fri, Sept 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kundra Wife: Theresa  
(32<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing)

Sat, Sept 24 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

#### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Alexander F. Perschy Son: Kurt  
(13<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

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

SUN, Sept 25 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Christina Michalsim (birthday 9/13) Husband: Wallace & Family  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ethel M. Galida Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen  
(3<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing 9/23)

# 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 13 — Seminarian Nathaniel Tapsak; Sept 16 – Robert Cifrulak; Sept 20 – Dolores Babin, LEONARD KALLOP, JR., Laura Saber; Sept 22 – Edward Cassidy, Margaret Nazak; Sept 23 – THERESA FITZURKA, TAMARA HARDING, Tam Revtai. Cecelia Rose Sclight.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, NANCY GOGAL, Iiona 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. Is living together with a significant other still considered cohabitation if there is no sex involved? Are the two different? A. **Catholic Apologist statement:** For the purpose of this answer, I'll assume by "significant other" you are referring to a romantic partner of the opposite sex to whom you are not married and who is not married to anyone else. (If any of these conditions are not accurate, then the definition of the sexual sin in question changes and may increase in gravity.) Cohabitation between unmarried partners of the opposite sex is an occasion of two sins, not just one. The first is, of course, fornication (sexual relations outside of marriage by an opposite-sex couple). If sexual relations are not occurring during cohabitation, then the couple is not guilty of fornication. They may, however, be placing themselves in a near occasion of sin—which means proximity to the temptation of sin—and we are supposed to avoid near occasions of sin. The other sin is scandal, which is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. The person who gives scandal becomes his neighbor's tempter. He damages virtue and integrity; he may even draw his brother into spiritual death. Scandal is a grave offense if by deed or omission another is deliberately led into a grave offense (CCC 2284). A couple who lives together outside of marriage creates scandal either by allowing people to believe that they are engaging in fornication or by tempting people to believe that cohabitation outside of marriage is okay so long as the couple does not engage in sex. Either way, the couple is creating spiritual obstacles for others, and to do so is indeed an occasion of sin.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 18 — Sept. 24, 2022

(MR): In memory of Gabriel Babin (19<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/19)

offered by Dgtr: Janet Sendro & Family

(NS): In memory of Robert Kundrat (18<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/19)

(MR) All reserved for 2022 offered by Mom: Theresa (NS) All reserved for 2022



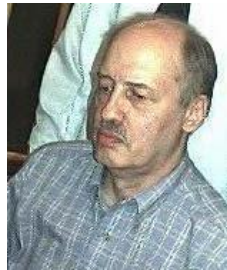
# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of **Infant Joanna Marie Wenger**, the daughter of Melissa and Eric Wenger, and sister of Isabelle, Emilia, Audrey, Elias and Augustine on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home on California Avenue. A Funeral Commendation Service for an Infant was offered at Thursday Sept. 15 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ the Redeemer Cemetery, Pittsburgh. Our parish family extends its most heart-felt condolences to the Wenger Family. O blessed and ever-to-be-remembered child Joanna Marie, you are remembered forever!



**CONDOLENCES RENDERED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of parishioner, **David Bubalo**, 72, of Pittsburgh (Brookline section) at UPMC Montefiore Hospital on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. He was the Brother of parishioner, Mary Ann (Steven) Puluka, and the nephew of our Basilian Sister, Sr. Margaret Kapusnak, O.S.B.M. of Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home. A Funeral Panachida was offered on Sat. Sept. 17 at 12:30 p.m. followed by the interment at Grandview Cemetery, Johnstown, PA. at a later date. At the wishes of the family, all funeral arraignments were in private. Our parish family extends its most heart-felt condolences to Mary Ann, Steve, Sr. Margaret, and the entire Bubalo, Puluka and Kapusnak Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest and a blessed repose to Your servant, David, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



## 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 your 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.



(Cont. article) This action is indicated in the catechesis of **Pope Innocent III (1198-1216)** when delivering the following:

*"The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity .... This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the right to the left, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left). Others, however, make the sign of the cross from the left to the right, because from misery (left) we must cross over to glory (right), just as Christ crossed over from death to life, and from Hades to Paradise. [Some priests] do it this way so that they and the people will be signing themselves in the same way. You can easily verify this — picture the priest facing the people for the blessing — when we make the sign of the cross over the people, it is from left to right."*

# Sunday after the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross — Mk. 8:34-9:1

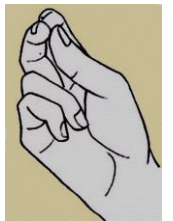
By Archpriest Igor Tarasov

Today is Sunday after the feast of the Universal Elevation of the Cross, and thus the Gospel lesson is about taking up a cross to follow Christ. It also contains an interesting statement: "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mk. 8, 36). If our Lord Himself uses such earthly words as "profit" and "gain", let us make a conclusion using the similar vocabulary: Jesus says that gaining the whole world and losing one's soul is the world's worst bargain. "Let us imagine, for a moment, that man gains the whole world. It cannot keep him from trouble; it cannot give him peace; it cannot comfort him in sorrow; it cannot purchase him immortality and it cannot secure him a place in heaven when he is gone. All he can do with the world, is to keep it until he dies; he cannot carry any of it with him to the other life. **"Our greatest treasure is our soul. Therefore, to lose it would be to lose the most valuable thing we may possess.** We lose our souls when we are no longer alive to God and to His love. We lose our souls when we place some other person or thing at the center of life. We lose our souls when we move away from God and no longer experience the power of His presence. And we lose our souls when we feel there is no longer any hope of forgiveness. **It was to keep us from losing our soul that God sent His Son to be our Savior.** Through Him no person need to lose his soul. Through Him, the door to salvation is always open. Through Jesus we can now become alive toward God and toward our fellow humans. Through Jesus we can gain treasures far greater in value than the entire universe." **"The Gospel today tells us how to follow Jesus and how to prepare for heaven. "If we really follow the Lord, He will bless us and secure our eternity. He says, "Whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mk. 8, 35). Losing one's life for Jesus equals saving it for eternity; it equals gaining eternal life.** Being tied to God, the soul finds eternal purity. Therefore, **let us listen to the words of the Holy Gospel and deny our sinful nature and its inclinations.** Let us say "no" to sin and to all that could prevent us from being saved. Let us tie our life to our Savior Jesus Christ, our only Hope who can grant us eternal life and make us gain His everlasting Kingdom!



**Byzantine Catholics Transmit Ancient Christian Tradition**  
*All Catholics originally made the Sign of the Cross like today's Byzantines*

As we continue the *Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord*, it is a good time to re-examine the way in which we bless ourselves. As is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we hold the thumb and first two fingers together signifying our belief in the Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The remaining two fingers are indicative of our belief of who Jesus is: God and man. These two figures are pressed into the palm reminding us that God came to earth and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Thus, when we make the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we begin by touching the forehead with the thumb and two fingers together while saying either "In the Name of the Father or Glory to the Father." Our action continues to move down below the heart (near the naval) signifying that the Son descended to earth to become man, to die and then resurrect from the dead. The movement then is directed to the right shoulder while saying "and to the Son" since He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of the Father. The gesture then goes across to the left shoulder while saying "and to the Holy Spirit. Amen." Historians seem to agree that this is the way Christians began signing themselves around the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. The entirely true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the One Who was nailed to the Precious Cross. (cont. on inside)



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 18 ..... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year  
September 30 ..... Anticipated Divine Liturgy for Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
October 1 ..... Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.  
(MR) 9:00 a.m.  
October 2-6 ..... Annual Clergy Retreat at the Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA

## Saint of the Day This Week

### Protomartyr & Equal-to-the-Apostles, Thecla — September 24

The Holy Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles Thecla was born in the city of Iconium. She was the daughter of rich and illustrious parents, and she was distinguished by extraordinary beauty. At eighteen years of age, they betrothed her to an eminent youth. But after she heard the preaching of the holy Apostle Paul about the Savior, St Thecla with all her heart came to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and she steadfastly resolved not to enter into marriage, but rather to devote all her life to preaching the Gospel. St Thecla's mother was opposed to her daughter's plans and insisted that she marry her betrothed. St Thecla's fiancé also complained to the prefect of the city about the Apostle Paul, accusing him of turning his bride against him. The prefect locked up St Paul in prison. During the night St Thecla secretly ran away from her house, and she bribed the prison guards, giving them all her gold ornaments, and so made her way into the prison to the prisoner. For three days she sat at the feet of the Apostle Paul, listening to his fatherly precepts. Neither the tears of her mother, nor her wrath, nor the threats of the prefect could separate St Thecla from her love for the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. Her mother in an insane rage demanded from the judges a death sentence against her unyielding daughter, and St Thecla was sentenced to be burned. Without flinching, the holy martyr went into the fire and made the Sign of the Cross over herself. St Thecla kept safe by the Lord. After this, St Thecla went with them preaching the

Gospel in Antioch. With the blessing of the Apostle Paul, St Thecla then settled in a desolate region of Isaurian Seleucia and dwelt there for many years, constantly preaching the Word of God, and healing the sick through her prayer. **St Thecla converted many pagans to Christ, and the Church appropriately names her as "Equal-to-the-Apostles."** When St Thecla was already a ninety-year-old woman, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free. They were unable to comprehend that the saint was healing the sick by the power of the grace of Christ, and they presumed that the virgin-goddess Artemis was her special helper. Envious of St Thecla, they sent their followers to defile her. When they came near her, St Thecla cried out for help to Christ the Savior, and a rock split open and hid the holy virgin, the bride of Christ. Thus, did St Thecla offer up her holy soul to the Lord.



## General Announcements

**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 today — **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 Puluka (412) 897-4650.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: COME & SEE WEEKEND** — Young men 18-35 are invited to a weekend retreat, Friday through Saturday, **November 4-6, 2022** at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary. *The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest.* No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense involved in participating in this retreat. *Deadline for online registration is at [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu)*



**PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO SERVE PASTA DINNER** — Mark your calendars! The Priests and Deacons in the Pittsburgh Deanery will be again hosting a **FREE PASTA DINNER** at St. Elias Church, Munhall on **Sunday October 23, 2022** from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. A signup list is located in the Church. We must know how many to prepare for! The final day for registration is Sunday, *October 16*. *A freewill offering will be taken to subsidize the project. Any profit that will be made will go to the Archieparchial Priests' Pension Plan. Come join us! A signup sheet will appear beginning next weekend.*



## AUTUMN COMMENCES THIS WEEK

Autumn, interchangeably known as fall in North America, is one of the four temperate seasons. Autumn marks the transition from summer into winter, in September (Northern Hemisphere) when the arrival of night becomes noticeably earlier and the temperature cools considerably. One of its main features is the shedding of leaves from deciduous trees. Autumn begins Thursday, September 22 at 9:03 p.m.



**Construction on McKees Rocks Bridge has begun delaying traffic. Father will do his best to be on time for the (NS) Divine Liturgy.**