

Parish Offerings – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost — November 13, 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 (\$1,680) YP (\$10)	.....	\$1,690.00
Holy Day (\$150) YP \$2) Thanksgiving (\$35) Christmas (\$40)	.....	227.00
Archdiocesan Charities (\$115) Christmas Décor (\$5)	.....	120.00
Votive Candles	.....	104.00
		<hr/>
		\$2,141.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	.....	\$1,115.00
Holy Days	.....	5.00
Utilities	.....	10.00
Votive Candles	.....	82.40
		<hr/>
		\$1,212.40

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (16)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (71); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

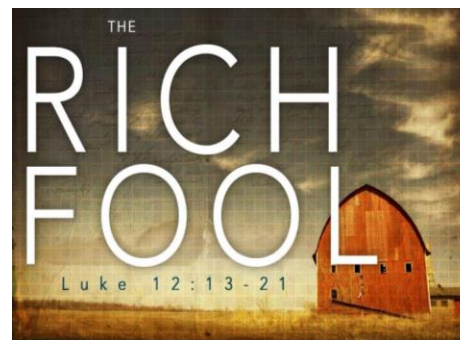
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1st Sunday of the Philippian Fast

November 20, 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
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

Happy Thanksgiving!

Snoopy as a Pilgrim with a turkey.

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nannde@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
*Sewing, Alterations, Custom
Embroidery and Unique Gifts*

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

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.

Join Us

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).

November 20, 2022 Seasonal Greeting Volume XII, Number 47



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

24th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN, Nov 20 (6) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak Elaine Kurtanich
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marie Wittmer (birthday 11/23) Sister: Joan Senchyslyn

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

MON, Nov 21 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John A. Debranski (16th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Tue, Nov 22 (8) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Gramata (37th ann of pass 11/26) Eleanor & George

The Philippian Fast — 40 days before Christmas

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

 for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith


Wed, Nov 23 (9) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Hubal Family Family

Annual Thanksgiving Day

Thrs, Nov 24 (10) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving for all God's Blessings



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

 for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Fri, Nov 25 (11) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + James M. Droter Margaret & James Lautenschlager
(60th ann of passing 11/26)

Sat, Nov 26 (12) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Farabaugh (4th ann of pass 11/2) Dgtr: Marianne

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 25th Sunday after Pentecost — 2nd Sunday of the Philippian Fast

(13) 4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

25th Sunday after Pentecost

2nd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Thanksgiving Weekend

SUN, Nov 27 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Alphonse A. Siglow (12th ann 11/30) Dgtr: Kathe & Bill Kress
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Daniel J. Galida (10th ann 11/30) Sister: Kathy L. Mullen

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: Nov 21 — MARLENE PFEIFFER; Nov 22 — Michael A. Tomchak;
Nov 23 — Harry Herron.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, Florence Charochak, GEORGE FECIK, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, 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. It is my understanding that we should be cleansed of our sins before we receive the Eucharist. **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Receiving Christ in the Eucharist forgives venial sins. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity wipes away venial sins" (CCC 1394). However, the reception of the **Eucharist does not forgive mortal sins**, so a person who is conscious of mortal sin (eg. Ten Commandments, 6 Precepts of the Church) must go to confession before receiving communion. When a person conscious of mortal sin receives the Eucharist without prior forgiveness he commits another mortal sin and only compounds his desperate situation. Paul tells us, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27). The Church calls this a *sacrilege* which is profaning or treating unworthily the sacraments and other liturgical actions, as well as persons, things, or places consecrated to God (CCC 2120).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Nov 20 — Nov 26, 2022

(MR): In memory of John R. Debranski (16th ann of passing 11/21)

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS) In memory of Hubal Family

(MR) Limited available for 2023

offered by Family

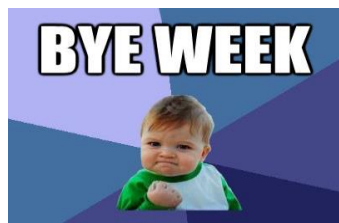
(NS) Available for 2023



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

PHILIPPIAN FAST PIROHI SALES HALT ONE WEEK — There will be NO Pirohi Sales



this Friday, November 25 but they will resume on December 2, 9 & 16. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, or by phoning on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. Eat-ins will still be available. We could still use additional help, especially pinchers when we

resume!. Thanks to all of you who continue to make this project profitable to the Church. God bless you.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR AREA LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN — GCU

Pittsburgh Northwest Lodge is, once again, holding a fraternal activity to help area children who may not be getting much for Christmas this year. This project is the ANGEL TREE located near the elevator in the side vestibule. Over the years, they really went fast! If you would like to participate and make a child's Christmas a little brighter this year you are asked to take an angel from the tree. It will have a child's age listed on the back. You are asked to purchase a gift and bring it back to the tree **UNWRAPPED with the angel taped on it** no later than **Sunday, December 4**. Holy Family Social Services and Family Foundation will distribute these gifts to the children in time for Christmas. Let's send this entire tree of angels in the form of gifts to these under-privileged children. You may call to make a donation to the project and we will do the shopping in your name. **Call Barb Stecko (412) 334-8245**.



Family Foundation will distribute these gifts to the children in time for Christmas. Let's send this entire tree of angels in the form of gifts to these under-privileged children. You may call to make a donation to the project and we will do the shopping in your name. **Call Barb Stecko (412) 334-8245**.

SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO A DEANERY PRIEST FOR ASSISTING — Saturday afternoon, our pastor was asked to offer the Holy Mystery of Matrimony at St. John Chrysostom Church of a North Side Parishioner. Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec graciously volunteered to substitute our 4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy. Thank you & may Our Lord bless your priesthood, Fr. Miron, and grant you many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

North Side

UPDATE ON RAFFLE, DRAWING AND THE BAKELESS BAKE SALE — The final tally

for the combined capital making projects is broken down: 50/50 Raffle (\$441); Restaurant Gift Cards (\$513); Bakeless Bake Sale (\$2,000). Total from North Side: \$2,954. plus \$825 from McKees Rocks. **Final Tally submitted for matching funds from the GCU; \$3,779**. We congratulate all winners and extend a heart-felt thank you to HGC-MR for assisting in these projects. The proceeds will be applied to the Bell Tower Project!



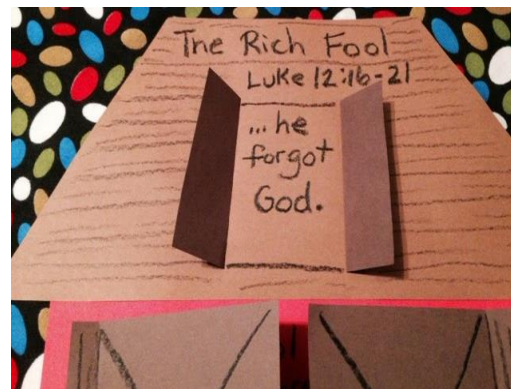
Come join us in giving THANKS to God on Thanksgiving Day!

Meditation on today's Gospel

A godly life is more important than material things

Luke 12:16-21

In Luke 12:13-21, a listener in the crowd surrounding Jesus asks Him to instruct his brother to divide the inheritance due to him equitably. Jesus declines, saying that life should not be based on having many possessions. He uses this occasion to teach His disciples that a godly life is more important than material things.



To explain this, He tells a parable about a rich man who builds larger and larger barns to store all his crops and goods. Since he had everything he

could possibly want or need, the rich man's focus was on living an easy life. God's response is that the man was foolish because, when he died later that night, his goods would do nothing for him. Someone else would inherit and enjoy them. A person whose life is caught up in what he owns is not rich toward God. The Parable of the Rich Fool illustrates Jesus' teaching to guard against every kind of covetousness.

Annual Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving is a federal holiday in the United States, celebrated on the fourth



Thursday of November. It originated as a harvest festival. Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, with a proclamation by George Washington after a request by Congress. Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, when Thanksgiving became a federal holiday in 1863, during the

American Civil War. Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the date was changed between 1939 and 1941 amid significant controversy. From 1942 onwards, Thanksgiving has been proclaimed by Congress as being on the fourth Thursday in November. Thanksgiving is regarded as being the beginning of the fall-winter holiday season, along with Christmas and the New Year, in American culture.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 20 ..Philippian Fast Moleben: St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair, PA @ 3:00 p.m.
 November 21 .. Solemn HD: Entrance into the Temple of Theotokos (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 November 24 Annual Thanksgiving Day — (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.
 November 27 Decorating the (MR) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 November 27 Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 December 4 (MR) Parish & Archieparichal St. Nicholas Celebration.
 December 6Solemn Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 December 8Solemn Feast of Immaculate Conception — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 December 11 Extra Confessor for Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) @ 3:00 p.m.
 December 18 Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students.
 December 23 (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours); (MR) 1:00 p.m. DL of St. John Chrysostom.

Saturday, Christmas Eve (No afternoon Divine Liturgy)

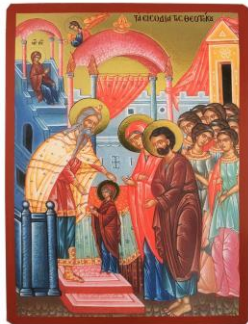
8:00 p.m. (MR) Great Compline followed by Christmas Carols; 9:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy.
 December 25 . 9:00 a.m. (MR) Christmas Divine Liturgy; 11:00 a.m. (NS) Christmas Divine Liturgy.

December 262nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.
 December 27 3rd Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen DL – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
 December 30 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, (To be determined).
 December 31 Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy Schedule: (MR) 4:00 p.m.
 January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 am.

Solemn Holy Day of the Week — Nov. 21

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

The origin of the feast is found in an account in the apocryphal Protoevangelium of Saint James. According to this document, after Saint Anne's miraculous birth-giving, the Most Holy Virgin having completed her second year, Joachim said to his wife: "Let us lead her to the Lord's Temple, as we promised Him." Ann said: "Let us yet wait until her third year, so that the child will not clamor for her father or mother, thus she will not walk straight before the Lord." When the child was three years old, Joachim said: "Let us call from among the daughters of the Hebrews those who are undefiled, and let them each take a lamp and let these lamps be lit, that the child not turn to look backward and her heart be not held captive outside the Lord's Temple." They did thusly. Zachary the priest received her and said to her: "May the Lord crown your name



with glory!", and he set her down on the altar step. There, Mary was nourished by an angel until she was twelve years old. When the time came for her to marry, Joseph received her from the priests' hands, and took her from the Lord's Temple. Whatever the foundations of this gracious legend may be, the Church invites us above all to meditate on the mystery of the internal preparation of Mary for her vocation as Theotokos. This preparation is a total self-commitment, in the "immaculate victim," "as a most holy vessel" which must receive the body of the Word incarnate, "a living temple and throne of the King, elected to be his Mother," "the spiritual ark enclosing the incomprehensible Word." The miracle of her subsistence by the hand of the Archangel is the symbol of her spiritual life entirely nourished by the will of God. **Come and pray with us at the Divine Liturgy. See the liturgical schedule for times.**

General Announcements

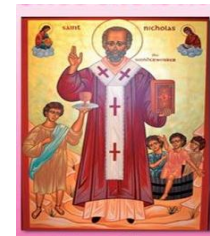
2nd WEEK: SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS — We began our first full week of our journey through the **PHILIPPIAN FAST** this past Nov. 15. It is called



the Philippian Fast (Filipovka in Church Slavonic) since it began the day after the Apostle Phillip's Feast (Nov. 14). It is comparable to the Western Rite's Advent Season. The Byzantine Catholic Church does not use the Latin Language to describe this penitential season (eg. Advent), since its traditional language is based on the Greek. This minor penitential period directs us to prepare ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. May we allow Him to be reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body.

Through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings of mercy, frequent sacramental confession of sins, and additional attendances at the Divine Liturgies we can accomplish this end. The color purple is donned in our Churches to signify the coming of ROYALTY (Jesus) to the cave of Bethlehem to be born in the flesh. *Together as a parish, let us collectively practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (REQUIRED) for the intention of the return of our beloved back to the fullness of the Faith.*

ARCHIEPARICHAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION — The 65th Annual St. Nicholas Celebration will take place at the Cathedral and Cathedral Center on **Sunday, December 4, 2022 with a Moleben to St. Nicholas @ 3:00 p.m.; Social @ 4:00 p.m. and Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.** Tickets are now priced at \$45.00 per adult and \$20.00 per child ages 12 and under. We'd like to get at least one full table (of 10). Please sign the list in the (MR) Side Vestibule; (NS) Narthex. *Parish deadline is Monday, November 21..*



HGCs TO PARTICIPATE IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE — In our love for the less fortunate, our both parishes will be holding an annual non-perishable food drive to be delivered to *the Inter Faith Churches Food Bank, McKees Rocks* in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please bring the non-expired items to the Church and place them at the entrance. For additional information contact Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092. Once again, we are grateful to her for leading this project.



DEANERY EVENT IN PREPARATION OF OUR LORD'S COMING — The Greater Pittsburgh Protospresbytery is sponsoring a Philippian Fast Moleben this afternoon, **Nov. 20 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair, PA.** Let's be represented. Confessions are at 2:30 p.m. Fellowship of light refreshments follow the Moleben.