

## Parish Offerings – 24th Sunday after Pentecost — November 20, 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 (\$2,353) YP (\$8)	\$2,361.00
Holy Day (\$195) Thanksgiving (\$110)	305.00
Archdiocesan Charities	25.00
Votive Candles	129.75
	<hr/>
	\$2,820.75

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$612.00
Holy Days (\$35) Thanksgiving (\$63) Christmas Décor (\$60)	158.00
Utilities	20.00
Votive Candles	39.40
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	\$829.40

## Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (25) – Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (82); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (18)

Entrance into the Temple — (MR) 9:00 am (10); 6:00 pm (12)

Thanksgiving Day — (MR) 9:00 am (25)

*Thank You God  
for everything in my life.  
The good & bad.  
Some were  
Blessings  
& some were  
Lessons!* ☺

**No School!**  
Happy Thanksgiving!

**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*

  
**Thanksgiving Day  
SURVIVOR**

### DESIGNS BY NANCY

235 McCartney Drive,  
Moon Township 15108  
Phone: (412) 262-9141  
Nancde@aol.com

**Nancy C. Debranski**

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call Tina (412) 859-9597**



*North Side Parishioner*

**Alan Valeriano**  
**(412) 638-3417**  
**PA #172378**

## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast

Thanksgiving Weekend — November 27, 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](http://Rusyn.fm) at 3:30 pm. Archive: [c-rsmedia.org](http://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

# 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 27, 2022

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XII, Number 48



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Thanksgiving Weekend

SUN, Nov 27 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Alphonse A. Siglow (12<sup>th</sup> ann 11/30) Dgtr: Kathe & Bill Kress

(13) 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Daniel J. Galida (10<sup>th</sup> ann 11/30) Sister: Kathy L. Mullen

Mon, Nov 28 (14) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + Michael Sejka Sejka Family

Tue, Nov 29 (15) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Justin M. Mendillo Kathy Mendillo

The Holy & Glorious Apostle Andrew, the First-Called

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 30 (16) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Susana + Andrew Matichko Son: John & Karen

The Old Testament Prophet Nahum

Thrs, Dec 1 (17) 8:00 a.m. (MR) Carmella Mell (birthday) Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

The Old Testament Prophet Habakkuk

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 the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Fri, Dec 2 (18) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Health & Welfare (Birthday) Kurt W. Perschy

The Old Testament Prophet Zephaniah

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

Sat, Dec 3 (19) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast

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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN, Dec 4 (20) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Christina Michalisk Carol & Frank Lipchick

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert J. Galida (24<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 1/21) Dgtr: 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 27 — DIANE LASKO; Nov 29 — Leonora Haffly; Nov 30 — Irene Bordas, Paul Rubish, Jr.; Dec 2 — Kurt Perschy.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, 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 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. What is the difference between Catholic and Christian? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: Nothing. To be Catholic is to be fully Christian. However, often when people ask this question, what they really mean, without being able to articulate it clearly, is "What is the difference between the Catholic Faith and Protestant Christianity?" A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and is baptized. A Catholic is a specific kind of Christian who believes that the Catholic Church was founded by Christ and accepts it as possessing the fullness of Christian truth and the means of salvation (Mt. 16: 18-19; 1 Tim. 3:15; CCC 2032, 2033, 2051). The word "Catholic" and "Christian" were once interchangeable. The first Christians called the Church "Catholic or Universal" to distinguish it from heretical splinter groups that denied necessary Christian truths. Thus, the early Christians came to be known as Catholics. As Catholics, we believe the unity that Christ desires for His followers only exists fully in the Catholic Church (Eph 4:1-6).

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Nov 27 — Dec 3, 2022

(MR): In memory of John Hustak (23<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing)

offered by Anita, Subdeacon Luke & Maria Iyengar

(NS) In memory of James A. Droter (60<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 11/26)

(MR) Limited available for 2023 offered by M & T Lautenschlager (NS) Available for 2023



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**PHILIPPIN FAST PIROHI SALES CONTINUE THIS WEEK** — Our Pirohi Sales continue 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. Once again, we can use pinchers. God bless you.



**CHURCH DECORATING TODAY** — We are calling all to help us start decorating the Church following this morning's Divine Liturgy. Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, there just are enough of days to accomplish our setup. Please remain with us following the Divine Liturgy

**ANGEL TREE PROJECT DRAWN NEAR A CHOLSE** — As of this weekend, there are only four angels remaining on the tree. This is the last opportunity to participate making a child's Christmas dream a little brighter. The angel has 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 next **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**.



## North Side

**CHURCH DECORATING TODAY** — We are calling all to help us start decorating the Church following this morning's Divine Liturgy. Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, there just are enough of days to accomplish our setup. Please remain with us following the Divine Liturgy

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(continuation) .... These exercises should be performed on the first Saturday of five consecutive months with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. February 15, 1926, the Child Jesus to Sr. Lucia concerning the devotion of the consecutive Five First Saturdays: *"It is true my daughter, that many souls begin the First Saturdays, but few finish them, and those who do complete them do so in order to receive the graces that are promised thereby. It would please me more if they did Five with fervor and with the intention of making reparation to the Heart of your heavenly Mother, than if they did Fifteen in a tepid and indifferent manner..."* **The Five blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart:** Our Lord revealed to Sr. Lucia that there are five ways in which people offend and blaspheme against the Immaculate Heart of Mary: (A) Against the Immaculate Conception; (B) Against her virginity; (C) Against the Divine Maternity, while refusing to receive her as the Mother of mankind (D) By those who try to publicly implant in the hearts of children indifference, disrespect, and even hate against the Immaculate Mother; and (E) By those who insult her directly in her sacred images.



# Meditation on Today's Gospel

*Sanctify the Lord's Day by good works not Selfish Acts*

**Luke 13:10-17**

There are a number of important points to keep in mind about the sanctification of the Lord's Day. God's commandment prescribes the sanctification of the whole day. We need to keep this in mind in our times when so many people feel that all we have to do is go to church for one hour on Sunday and rest of the day belongs to us. **WRONG!** ... The whole day is the Lord's Day. It belongs to Him! How do we keep it holy? It is a day of rest when people should put away their tools of labor. But it doesn't mean that people should be lazy or slothful because that too is a sin. Besides going to church it can be a time for visiting, or going to see the sick. To heal their bent spirits by lifting them up by our visitation. It should be a day for doing good. "Remember that thou shall keep holy the Lord's Day." There are many things involved in this commandment. But there is a starting place, and the woman of the Gospel lesson today provides it. She was ill, she was crippled, but she was worshipping in church on the Lord's Day. We, too, can make such a start each Sunday in keeping the Lord's Day holy. Jesus said, "Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I amongst them." His special presence and power is felt when His family meets together that they might with one heart and one tongue raise a common plea to Him. When a hundred voices cry out: "Lord, have mercy," a situation is created which opens the gates of grace to flow.



## First Five Saturdays Devotion Revealed by the Mother of God

During the July 13, 1917 apparition at Fatima, Our Lady said so kindly and so sadly: "You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart..." **The Great Promise:** Eight years after the Fatima apparitions, on December 10, 1925, Our Lady appeared again to Lucia, who was then a postulant in the Dorothean convent at



Pontevedra, Spain. This time Our Lady appeared with the Child Jesus. She addressed Lucia as follows: "Look, my daughter, at my heart surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me." **The Five First Saturdays of Reparation to Our Lady:** (1) Confession (8 days before or after) (2) Receive Holy Communion( can be at Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy); (3) Recite five decades of the Rosary; (4) Keep Our Lady company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary. (Continuation near the end of the S.O.T) ....

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 & Archieparchial St. Nicholas Celebration.  
 December 6 ..... Solemn Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker — (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 December 8 ..... Solemn 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.  
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### 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.  
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December 26 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.  
 December 27 ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Saint of the Week — Nov. 27 The Holy Martyr James the Persian

The Holy Great Martyr James the Persian (the Sawn-Asunder) was born in the fourth century into a pious Christian family, both wealthy and illustrious. His wife was also a Christian, and the couple raised their children in piety, inspiring in them a love for prayer and the Holy Scriptures. James occupied a high position at the court of the Persian emperor Izdegerd (399-420) and his successor Barakhranes (420-438). But on one of the military campaigns James, seduced by the emperor's beneficence, was afraid to acknowledge himself a Christian, and so he offered sacrifice to idols with the emperor. Learning of this, James' mother and wife wrote him a letter, in which they rebuked him and urged him to repent. Receiving the letter, James realized the gravity of his sin. Faced with the horror of being cut off not only from his family, but also from God Himself, he began to weep loudly, imploring the Lord for forgiveness. His fellow-soldiers, hearing him pray to the Lord Jesus Christ, reported this to the emperor. Under interrogation, St James bravely confessed his faith in the one True God. No amount of urging by the emperor could make him renounce Christ. The emperor then ordered the saint to be put to death. They began to cut off his fingers and his toes one by one, then his hands and his feet, and then his arms and legs. During the prolonged torture St James offered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who had granted him the possibility of redemption from his sins by enduring these terrible torments. Finally, the martyr was beheaded. Christians gathered up the pieces of his body and buried them with great reverence.



## General Announcements

**3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK: SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS** — This traditional and minor Penitential Period 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.*



### Come O Jesus Our Savior, Redeem and Save Us!

**HGCs CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 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 Protopresbytery is sponsoring a Philippian Fast Moleben **on December 18, @ 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church**, Koeler Street, Lyndora, PA. Let's be represented. Confessions are at 2:30 p.m. Fellowship of light refreshments follow the Moleben.

### INVITATION OUR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION — Next Sunday, December 4, 2022 following the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

**RSVP will be required to attend** # of adults, # of children grade 5 and under # of children grade 6 and up. The youth group will have a brief presentation and photos with St. Nicholas will be available. We are committed in teaching the Faith to our children and pray that by your attendance it will inspire our children to a greater love of Christ and His Church. — Contact: Steve Puluka, E.C.F. Coordinator (412) 897-4650.

