

Parish Offerings – 25th Sunday after Pentecost — November 27, 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 (\$1,964) YP (\$4)	\$1,968.00
Holy Day (\$102) YP (\$2) Christmas (\$20)	124.00
Thanksgiving (\$197) Christmas Décor (\$5)	202.00
Votive Candles	122.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,416.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$804.85
Holy Days (\$5) Thanksgiving (\$30)	35.00
Special Donation (In memory of Anna & John Mammy-Tina Burns)	105.00
Votive Candles (\$86.60) Utilities (\$20)	106.60
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	\$1,051.45

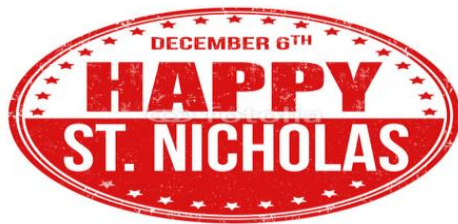
Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (27)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (64); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (24)



Christmas is coming...Ho ho ho



Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412)
331-9713

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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

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bring you this weekly &
informative S.O.T. without
incurring an added expense to
the Church. New Sponsors
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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

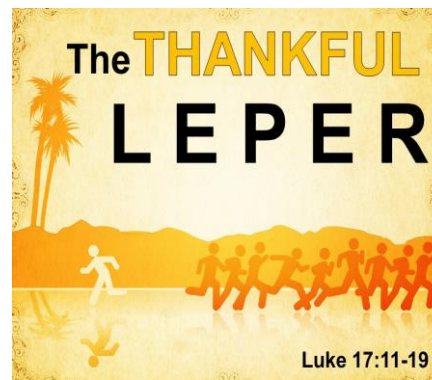
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast

December 4, 2022



Luke 17:11-19



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

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

December 4, 2022

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XII, Number 49



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!

Liturgical Schedule of the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

26th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd 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 (24th ann of passing 1/21) Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen

Mon, Dec 5 (21) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Cifrulak + Kulka Families Kathy & John Kulka

Feast of Our Holy Father, Nicholas the Wonder-Worker

Solemn Holy Day: Patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church — Mirovanije

TUE, DEC 6 (22) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Marian G. (Conti) Weigand (4th ann of passing) Catherine & Jeanette

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, Dec 7 (23) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret "Peg" Krulac Carol & Frank Lipchick


FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Solemn Feast: Conception of St. Anne — Patroness of Our Country — Mirovanije

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


for the intention of the return of our beloved back to God and His Church

THRS, DEC 8 (24) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Bishop Andrew Pataki (11th ann of pass)

 + Fr. John Kasarda (14th ann of pass) + Br. Felix, O.F.M. (7th ann of passing)

6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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 9 (25) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William H. Zavidny Nancy & T. Hewitt

Sat, Dec 10 (26) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 27th Sunday after Pentecost — 4th Sunday of the Philippian Fast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Irene + Michael Maslany Son: Michael

27th Sunday after Pentecost

4th & Final Sunday of the Philippian Fast

Sunday of the O.T. Fore-Fathers

SUN, Dec 11 (27) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Christina Michalisk Husband: Wallace & Family

(1st ann of passing 12/23)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Nicholas Senchyshyn (birthday (12/16) Dgtr: Joan

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: Dec 2 — ALEXANDER HELMS; Dec 4 — William Bell; Dec 5 — Lee Feldman, THEODORE HELMS; Dec 9 — Alice Sejka, Daniel Skreptach.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Florence Charochak, GEORGE FECIK, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, SHIRLEY KALANAS, 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. If God knows everything we do, then how come we have to go to Confession? **A.** Answer by a Catholic Apologist: We go to Confession to say "I'm sorry" for our sins, not to tell God something He does not already know. For example, you may know that your younger brother broke your Play Station Player, but wouldn't it be aggravating if he knew you knew, but still do not say "I'm sorry?" It would be a double slap in the face. In addition to saying "sorry" to God, Confession also reconciles us with the Church (CCC 1469). There is no such thing as a private sin. Every sin affects the world in a negative manner. There is always a ripple effect. When a Catholic accepts and takes advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, he builds up the Body of Christ (Col. 1:24; CCC 1496). He is implicitly saying, "I believe in the Sacrament, and you should too." This affirmation of the Sacrament can lead others to live a sacramental life (2 Cor. 8:21).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Dec 4 — Dec 10, 2022

(MR): **In memory of Chirko & Charochak Families**

offered by Florence Charochak

(NS) **In memory of Joyce & Mary Hrivnak**

(MR) Limited available for 2023

offered by Fr. Firko

(NS) Available for 2023

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

PHILIPPIAN FAST PIROHI SALES CONTINUE FOR TWO WEEKS — Our Pirohi Sales continue on **December 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.



NORTH SIDE

NEWLY WEDS OF OUR CHURCH — On Saturday, November 19, 2022, **LARISA KATHERINE BODNARCHUK** (Holy Ghost Church) and **THOMAS CURTIS PFEUFFER, JR.** (Holy Trinity Roman Rite Church, (Steubenville Pike) were united by Fr. Firko in the Holy Mystery of Matrimony. The ceremony took place at the special request of the couple at St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, Pittsburgh. Our parish conveys its most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Larisa & Tommy, and pray that God's blessings always be upon them. May God grant to Larisa & Tommy, peace, health and salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita'!



SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **George E. Fecik**, 76, of Pittsburgh (Brighton Heights), PA, where he passed away from a lingering illness, on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 (feast of St. Andrew). He is survived by his wife: Theresa (Visokey). Also, is survived by his children: Christine (Jim) Barczy, and Shelley A. Duff; also, by a Brother, Eugene (Judy). The O'Brien Funeral Home, California Avenue, handled the arrangements. George was very helpful to the church in volunteering his services as a Church Counter of the Sunday Collection. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered Saturday, December 3rd @ 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at The National Cemetery of the Alleghenies on Wed., Dec. 7th. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Fecik Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant George, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



SPECIAL TIMES FOR THE HOLY MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS —



Special Confession times has been arranged to the following days & times to accommodate making a good Confession prior to Our Lord's Holy Nativity. **NS - Friday, December 23, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. & MR - Sunday, December 11, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.** Please make every effort to make a good and worthy Confession. Also, Confessions are available at the regular times as indicted on the front of the S.O.T. Church Bulletin. A special guide is provided for you at the entrances of the Church to examine your conscience

and can be picked up. **Prepare your soul to be the New Bethlehem and your heart to be a fitting Manger for Our Lord on Christmas Day!**

Meditation on Today's Gospel

Showing Gratitude for healing the leprosy of Sin!

Like 17:12-19

Luke observes that the one grateful leper "was a Samaritan" (v.16). Why are no observant Jews — the chosen people of God, the people of the convent — among the grateful? No, the grateful leper is the one who is doubly outcast. He is both a leper and a Samaritan. This "Untouchable" is the one who stops to praise God in Jesus' healing. Luke has given us a picture of another "good Samaritan" (cf. 10:25-27). The story foreshadows the coming of the kingdom of God to the Gentiles (cf. Also "this foreigner" in v.18), a major theme throughout both Luke and Acts (e.g., 24-47 and Acts 1:8). In the cleansing of these lepers God was acting through Jesus, and so God must be thanked through Jesus. As a form of prayer, Christian gratitude must be offered through Jesus Christ. The salvation of the grateful leper represents more than physical healing. The lepers' salvation reflects his awareness through faith of God's gracious presence. As Christians we are called to follow the example of this grateful leper and let the grace of gratitude transform our daily lives.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, we celebrate this important solemn feast. What is it all about? It is about the soul of the Virgin Mary whom God had chosen from all eternity to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word (Jesus) and was created full of grace and free from original sin, united to a body formed according to the laws of nature through the operation of love of her parents, Joachim and Anne. This privilege, accepted throughout the centuries, was officially proclaimed as a dogma by Pope Pius IX in the year 1854. It is known in the Catholic Church as the Immaculate Conception. It is the title that the Mother of God gave to a young girl, St. Bernadette, when she appeared and declared herself to be "The Immaculate Conception" prior to the Church's official proclamation.



O Most Holy Mother of God, Save Us!!!

Thank you St. Nicholas for gracing us with your presence today!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.

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 26 2nd 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.

Saint of the Week — December 6

Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, the Wonder-Worker

This glorious saint, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of the city of Patra in Lycia. Since he was the only son bestowed on them by God, the parents returned the gift to God by dedicating their son to Him. **St. Nicholas** learned of the spiritual life from his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patra. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand is doing (Mt 6:3). By God's wondrous providence, Nicholas was chosen as the archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. During the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian, he was cast into prison, but even there

he instructed the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea [325] and, out of great zeal for the truth, struck the heretic Arius with his hand. For this act he was removed from the Council and from his archiepiscopal duties, until the Lord Christ Himself and the Holy Theotokos appeared to several of the chief hierarchs and revealed their approval of Nicholas. A defender of God's truth, this wonderful saint was ever bold as a defender of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from an undeserved sentence of death. Merciful, truthful, and a lover of justice. He appeared both in dreams and in person to those who called upon him, and he helped them easily and speedily, whether close at hand or far away. In old age he became ill for a short time and entered into the rest of the Lord, after a life full of labor and very fruitful toil, to rejoice eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles and to glorify his God. He entered into rest on December 6, 343. *He is the Patron of our Ruthenian (Rusyn) Byzantine Catholic Church. Note Well: In 1975, at the annual St. Nicholas Banquet, William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, Archbishop Kocisko consecrated the Archeparchy to St. Nicholas.*



General Announcements

TODAY'S THE 3RD SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPAN FAST — We continue our journey into this minor penitential period following Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem by preparing ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. It is through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings, frequent confession of sins, works of virtue and additional participation in Divine Liturgies, we can accomplish this end. 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 for the return of our beloved back to Church. The color **PURPLE** is worn as a sign of **ROYALTY** of the One to be born



in Bethlehem.

Come O Jesus Our Savior, Redeem and Save Us!

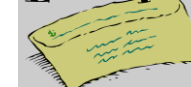
HGCs CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE — In our love for the less fortunate, our both parishes will be holding an annual non-perishable food drive to be delivered to the *Inter Faith Churches Food Bank, McKees Rocks* in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please bring the non-expired 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**, Kohler Street, Lyndora, PA. Let's be represented. Confessions are at 2:30 p.m. Fellowship of light refreshments follow the Moleben.

2023 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX — Your 2023 *Contribution Envelopes* are ready for pickup today. **Please look for your name and not your current number.** If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office. **Please do not use your 2023 until January! As mentioned, your new box of envelopes may not have the same number.** If you have not contributed in two years, you will have to call the church office to be reinstated. This helps us to keep costs down. Again, we wish to thank and ask God's blessings on the **Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home and Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home** for sponsoring our new year calendars.

Offering Envelopes



GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO DECORATED THE CHURCH — A special thank you is extended to all who came to decorate the NS & MR Churches this past week. We are always in need of volunteers especially in decorating the Church for this special time of the year. Remember that all of us reap its benefits. The Church looks beautiful! We now await the Christmas flowers. We could not have done it without you!

