

Parish Offerings – Sunday OT Holy Fathers — December 18, 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 (\$4,580) YP (\$10)	\$4,590.00
Holy Day (\$30) Christmas (\$210)	340.00
Votive Candles	165.50
	<hr/>
	\$4,995.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$799.00
Holy Days (\$21.50) Christmas Décor (\$25)	46.50
Church Steps Repair (\$100) Church Improvement (\$20)	120.00
Votive Candles (\$70) Bakeless Bake Sale (\$100)	170.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,135.50

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (17)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (67); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (20)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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A Fraternal Benefit Society

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call Tina (412) 859-9597



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 HOLY NATIVITY OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS

Christmas Day — December 25, 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 as 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

December 25, 2022

Christmas Christian Greeting: Volume XII, Number 52

(Dec. 24 through Jan. 4):



Christ is Born! — Glorify Him!

Christos Razdajetsja! — Slavite Jeho!



Liturgical Schedule of the Week

**FREE DAY OF SIMPLE ABSTINENCE OR EQUIVALENT PENANCE
CELEBRATING THE JOY OF OUR SAVIOR'S HOLY NATIVITY**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
HOLY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE FLESH			

Christmas Day — Holy Day of Obligation — Mirovanije

SUN, DEC 25 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Dolores + George Hudanick, Sr. Children: George, Paul, Janet:

SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS — 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

MON, Dec 26 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak Pirohi Workers

3:00 p.m. (MR) Nuptial Divine Liturgy & Wedding Ceremony of Seminarian-Reader Nathaniel James Tapsak (Holy Ghost Church) & Natalia Elizabeth Wohar (Holy Ghost Church)

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLE, PROTO-MARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN — 3rd Day of Christmas

TUE, Dec 27 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Andrew Latta Wife: Arlene & Family

Wed, Dec 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(11th ann of passing)

Thrs, Dec 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William J. Kendrach Wife: Margaret & Family

Fri, Dec 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores J. Kosko LuAnn Terabasso & Family

Final Day of the Nativity Feast

Sat. Dec 31 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



DL of St. Basil for Feast of Circumcision & Feast of St. Basil the Great — New Year's Day

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak Leyte, Mike & Mike Tomchak

(1st ann of passing 12/31)

CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD & FEAST OF ST. BASIL

New Year's Day 2023 — Sunday after Christmas — Mirovanije

56th Anniversary of Prayer for World Peace

SUN, JAN 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Lester G. Best M/M Burt Cifrulak

(2nd ann of passing 1/2)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Agnes Kress Son: William & Kathyn
(13th ann of passing)

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 26 — Elissa Uram; Dec 27 — Nickolas Kotik; Dec 29 — Evelyn Yakubik; Dec 31 — Callahan Bedard.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, 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.

LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALANAS.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. A friend tells me that Jesus was probably born in the summer. How do I explain to her the reason the Church celebrates Christmas on December 25? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** As we do not know the exact date of Christ's birth, the date of December 25 for Christmas may have been arbitrary. The Church could have chosen another date on which to celebrate the birth of Christ. One reason December 25 may have been deemed suitable is its proximity to the winter solstice. After that date the days start to become longer, and thus it is at the beginning of a season of light entering the world (cf. John 1:5). The summer solstice — after which the days start to get shorter—falls near June 24, on which the Church celebrates the birth of John the Baptist, who declared of Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Dec 25 — Dec 31, 2022

(MR): **In memory of Mark A. Cifrulak**

offered by Family

(NS) **For the Living & Deceased of Chesmar Family**

(MR) Limited available for 2023 offered by David S. Chesmar, Jr. (NS) Available for 2023

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

BANNS OF MARRIAGE III — This is the third & final announcement of the upcoming marriage of **Seminarian-Reader Nathaniel James Tapsak (Holy Ghost Church)**, and **Natalia Elizabeth Wohar (Holy Ghost Church)** Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m., December 26, 2022. If anyone knows why these individuals cannot contract marriage, please notify the rectory office and ask to speak to the pastor.

ANONYMOUS GIFTS TO OUR CHURCH — A special thank you is extended to an anonymous parishioners who upgraded the manger scene this year by cleaning and retouching the figurines at the manger scene. This generous contributor did so at their own cost in memory of a beloved deceased relative. Also, another thank you for the anonymous contributor who has been donating flowers before the icon of our Blessed Mother during her feast days throughout 2022; and for the annual donor of the poinsettia flower before the Icon of Our Holy Father St. Nicholas. God bless the you for your sacrificial gestures.

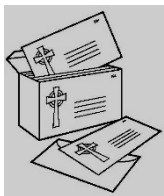
NORTH SIDE

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM THE 'LIGHT OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION' — Our donation to the needy in our community goes a long way and is very much appreciated. The following is a note from the Light of Life: *"Dear Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, " Families come to the shelter where we give them clothing, hygiene products, Giant Eagle Gift Cards and lunch. They were all tearfully grateful Thanks to donations such as yours, we were able to give families a fresh start. Your support means the world to us and to our clients. In His Grp, Rev. Jerred T. Gilliam.*

GRATITUDE EXTENDED TO GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE — The main office of GCU has decided through the decision of its Board of Directors to terminate all local lodges and officers towards a more responsible fiduciary direction for all its members. The local bank account of our lodge has been distributed to our three Byzantine Catholic Parishes: MR, NS and Gibsonia. A special thank you is extended to our fraternal organization for its donation. May God remember all the fraternal goodness that you have assisted to our Parishes!

GRATITUDE FROM THE FOOD BANK — The McKees Rocks Interchurch Food Bank has acknowledged both of our Churches donation of nonperishable food items during the recent November-December Food Drive. *"Thank you so much for your donations to our food bank."* — God Bless, Donna Pollard.

PLEASE WRITE AMOUNT ON YOUR ENVELOPES — Often times when our devoted Counters are dealing with several different envelopes (Sundays, Holy Days, Special Collections, etc.) it is possible that a donation slips by without a written amount indicated on the envelope. Would you please help us by placing the amount on your envelope?!? Often we receive an envelope with nothing inside. **Be sure that your check is signed with the new year marked.** Place the contribution with all envelopes or at least the front portion of each envelope with check(s) attached. This helps our bookkeeping to credit your account properly.



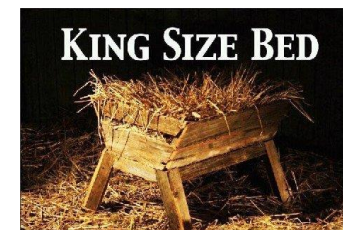
CHRISTMAS DAY DIVINE LITURGY

We come together as a parish family to celebrate Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ's Nativity according to the flesh. Festive melodies and traditional carols are joined together as we raise our hearts and voices praising God the Father for sending our His Divine Son, Jesus Christ, to sanctify us through God the Holy Spirit. Christmas has a 7-day post-festive period in which the message of Christ's Birth is reiterated in a celebratory manner. **THERE IS NO FASTING OR ABSTINENCE DURING CHRISTMAS WEEK IN THE JOY OF OUR SAVIOR'S NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH!**



The Manger in Bethlehem's Cave

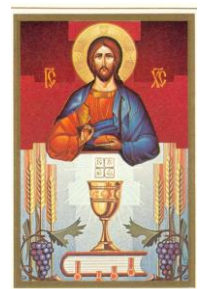
The scriptures reveal that Jesus was born in a manger in a cave of Bethlehem of Judea because there wasn't any room in the local Inn. In commemoration of these facts a



Nativity Manger set is placed in the Church. We come to the Holy Manger and offer our prayers to the newly born Christ Child during the Holy Nativity Season. As we pray at the Holy Manger of the Christ Child and reflect upon the humble scene, we must ever realize the tremendous debt of gratitude that we owe to Jesus, the Son of God, for having come into the world in order to save us. The Holy Manger of the Lord's Nativity will be displayed in both of our Churches during the Divine Liturgies on Christmas Eve along with the Christmas trees and Poinsettias. **Make a visit to the Holy Manger during this Holy Season, and recite the Troparion prayer that is placed there**

The Traditional Three Days of Christmas — Let us Celebrate Together

The first three days of Christmas are Festive Holy Days that the Church attaches great spiritual importance to the Most Holy Eucharist. Jesus is the Bread that has come down from Heaven and is truly the essential Bread of Life. *During these three days* the Church emphasizes that in the Holy Eucharist that **GOD IS WITH US** in the most intimate way possible here on earth. Therefore, the Church exhorts all the faithful to receive Holy Communion on these three solemn days. Make it a point to avail yourself to these innumerable graces and to offer a worthy reception of Holy Communion for those special intentions you desire to be answered!



Seasonal Greeting During Christmas

During this time of Christmas until January 4, the greeting that we address each other is **CHRIST IS BORN! (Christos Razdajetsja!)**. The response is **GLORIFY HIM! (Slavite Jeho!)** Let us glorify the Lord this festive season by greeting and responding with this ancient Byzantine Catholic tradition celebrating and glorifying the Lord Jesus' Nativity!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

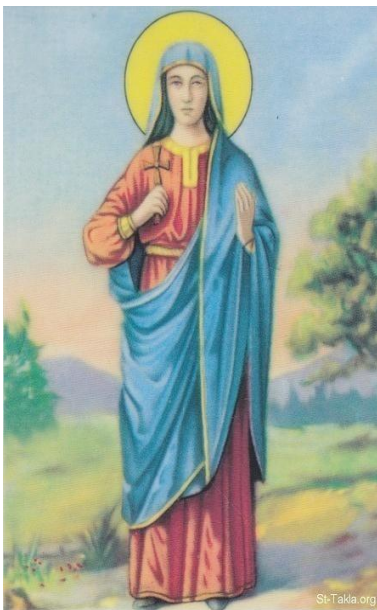
December 26	2 nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) & 6:00 p.m.
December 27	3 rd Day of Christmas — Feast of St. Stephen DL — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
December 28	Pirohi Workers Volunteer Christmas Luncheon at Rockefeller's Grille @ 12:00 noon.
December 30	Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Dinner at Golden Corral, Robinson Township. @ 6 pm.
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.
January 5	(MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours; Vigil Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great @ 1:00 pm.; Theophany Feast Day Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
January 6	Feast of Theophany — Divine Liturgy of & the Great Sanctification of Water — Holy Day of Obligation — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
January 15	Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
.....	Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
January 18-25	Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Saint of the Week — December 30 Holy Virgin-Martyr Anyisia of Thessalonica

The Holy Virgin Martyr Anyisia lived in the city of Thessalonica during the reign of the co-Emperor Maximian (286-305). Upon the death of her parents, who had raised her in Christian piety, Saint Anyisia sold everything she owned, distributing her riches to the poor, and she began to lead a strict life of fasting, vigil, and prayer. During his persecution against Christians, Maximian issued an edict stating that anyone had the right to kill Christians with no fear of punishment. Soon there were many bodies to be found in cities, towns, and by the roadside. Once, when Saint Anyisia was on her way to church, a pagan soldier stopped her and demanded that she come along to the festival of the sun to offer sacrifice. Saint Anyisia gently pulled herself away from him. When the soldier boldly grabbed her and attempted to tear the veil from her head, she shoved him, spit in his face and said, "My Lord Jesus Christ forbids you!" In anger, the soldier ran her through with his sword. Those gathering

over her body wept and loudly complained against the cruel emperor for issuing an edict that resulted in the death of many innocent people. Christians buried the martyr near the city gates, and a chapel was built over her grave.

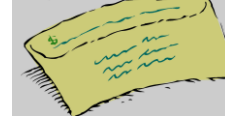
A Very Blessed and Merry Christmas!!!
PLEASE ASSIST ALL FAMILY MEMBERS BACK TO CHURCH!!!



General Announcements

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



PIROHI WORKERS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON THIS WEEK — In appreciation for this season's Pirohi Project, an appreciation luncheon will be held this week at **Rockefeller's Grille, Kennedy Township.** For those who have signed the list, you are to arrive on **Wednesday, December 28, 2022 @ 12:00 noon.** We are grateful to all who have worked hard and sacrificed their time and effort to make this year's project a profitable one. God bless you all. See you this week!



CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER SCHEDULED — The Church cannot operate very well if it weren't for volunteers! To show appreciation for all who volunteered in some aspect of parish life throughout 2022, a **Parish Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township** is scheduled this **Friday, December 30, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.** This includes all Altar Servers, Ushers, Cantors, Readers, Office Personnel, Collection Counters, Church & Rectory Cleaners and Decorators, Altar Cover changers, Catechists, Radio Ministry, etc.. A list is now located in the (MR) vestibule, and (NS) Narthex of the Church. *Final day for signing Wednesday, December 28th.* Come and join us! The Church wish to thank you for accomplishing many projects. God bless our volunteers!



YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS — It's that time of year to think about filing our taxes. Our Holy Ghost wishes to credit you whatever you contribute in 2022. *The final day to submit any contribution for this tax year is Wednesday, December 28, 2022.* Anything collected after that date will roll-over to the New Year 2023. For example, any of this year's Christmas Donations that arrive after this Wednesday Morning will be accredited to 2023 for the following year's record. Please keep this in mind. Thank you for remembering your Church throughout 2022! May God bless your sacrificial generosity!

