

## Parish Offerings – Sunday after Theophany— January 15, 2023

“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 (\$1,845) YP (\$7) .....	\$1,852.00
Holy Day (\$553) YP (\$2) Christmas (\$25) .....	580.00
Initial (\$160) YP (\$6) BC.W. (\$244) .....	410.00
Votive Candles (\$119.50) Coffee Social (\$41) .....	160.50
	<hr/>
	\$3,002.50

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$742.50) Christmas (\$1) .....	\$743.50
Holy Day (\$55) .....	70.00
B.C.W. ....	42.00
Votive Candles .....	56.25
	<hr/>
	\$911.75

## Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (18)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (67); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)



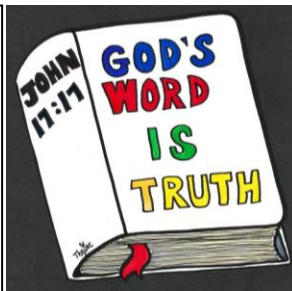
### Valerian F. Szal

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*



### DESIGNS BY NANCY

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*North Side Parishioner*

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**Sponsors make it possible to  
bring you this weekly &  
informative S.O.T. without  
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the Church. New Sponsors  
please contact Church office.**



## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## THE 32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**January 15, 2023**



**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: 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

*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).*

January 15, 2023

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIII, Number 3



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



## Liturgical Schedule of the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>The 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
<b>SUN, JAN 15</b>	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael P. Harsh	Lecci Family
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Michael Sotak, Jr. (10 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 1/13)	Wife: Jane
<b>Federal Holiday — Martin Luther King, Jr. — Banks Closed &amp; No Postal Service</b>			
Mon, Jan 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare	Jane R. Sotak
Tue, Jan 17	8:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Darko S. Gataric (birthday 1/9)	Joshua & Anka Gataric
<b>Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity</b>			
Wed, Jan 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George Kurtanich	Jan Herczak
Thrs, Jan 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Myrona Duggan	Nancy & Michael Ferrell
<b>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) For the intention of World Peace</b>			
Fri, Jan 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Sharon Ann Maletz	Parents: Martha & Bob Maletz
Sat, Jan 21	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna Toth (4 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 1/6)	Anonymous

\*\*\*\*\*  
Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Zacchaeus — 1<sup>st</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Julia Wovchko  
(birthday 1/21) Anonymous



## Sunday of Zacchaeus

The 1<sup>st</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday

5<sup>th</sup> Day of Prayer for Christian Unity

**SUN, JAN 22** 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Peter A. Smoley  
(50<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 1/17) Dgtr: Mary Ann

## 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:** Jan 15 — William Boros; Jan 18 — Michael Ferrell; Jan 19 — Barbara Lutz; Jan 21 — KIRK LATTA, Nicholas Nazak I.

## 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 Cifrutlak, Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.  
**LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE** (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALANAS.  
**CONCORDIA AT REBECCA RESIDENCE** (3746 Cider Ridge Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101): Irene Bordas.

## Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** Why is it so important to go to Church? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Why is it important for a lover to be with his beloved? If we love God, we will want to spend time with Him in the way He wants us to. God wants us to give ourselves to Him in worship (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-19; CCC 2096). And He wants us to do it through His Son's own self-surrender and sacrifice, the Eucharist (Lk. 22:17-19; CCC1389). All that requires our going to Church as God commands (Heb. 10:25). Another reason for going to Church: We receive special graces by worshipping God and by receiving the Eucharist (Jn. 6:56). Going to Church can change us and convert our hearts. It can teach us we are not the center of the universe — God is — and He deserves our praise and thanksgiving (Rev. 5:12; Psalm 145:1-3; CCC 300). One more point: If we are not worshipping God, we are worshipping something else — ourselves, television, a movie star or a sports team. Not going to Church does not mean we won't worship anything, only that we will worship the wrong thing (CC 2113).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**Jan 15 — Jan 21, 2023**

(MR): In memory of Claudia C. Verner (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 1/16)

offered by Husband: George

(NS) In memory of Anthony Knoll

(MR) Limited available for 2023

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) Available for 2023



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**TENTATIVE PLANS UNDERWAY FOR OUR GREAT FAST PIROHI PROJECT** — We are working to organize plans for this year's Lenten Pirohi Project. All Volunteers for the Project are asked to gather in the **Church Basement next Sunday, January 22, 2023** following the Divine Liturgy. When additional information is available, it will appear in an upcoming S.O.T.



**PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MOVED EARLIER** — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of meeting change now slated for **Saturday, February 4, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m. in the Church office.** Major agenda is the 2022 Church Financial Report. Please place this date on your agenda.

## NORTH SIDE

**PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED** — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of meeting on **Sunday, February 5, 2023 following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.** Major agenda is the 2022 Church Financial Report. Please place this date on your agenda.

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**YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS** — Just a reminder **THE 2022 INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS ARE NOW CLOSED AND CAN NOW BE REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL. THIS METHOD IS MUCH MORE EFFICIENT AND CAN BE QUICKLY EXPEDITED TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE REQUEST YOUR 2022 STATEMENT NOW BY SUBMITTING YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS to: secretary225@verizon.net**

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DISMANTLED FORTHCOMING** — We no sooner decorate the Church for Christmas and it is time to dismantle it for another year. Volunteers from both parishes are asked to gather today, **January 15, 2023 following the Divine Liturgy for both parishes.** You are asked to give approximately an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations. The more assistance we can get, the faster we will be able to depart. Please consider helping us, especially if you weren't able to be present to set up.

**EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS THIS WEEK** — This



Wednesday concludes the *Annual Eight Days of Prayer* for the intention of Christian Unity. Each year from January 18-25, Christians unite to pray in the same sentiments that Jesus prayed to the Father: *"That all may be one ... so that the world may believe."* (John 17:21). As Catholics we have the fullness of the faith that Jesus established, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Pray each day:

*"O Almighty and Merciful God, You willed that the different nations should become one people through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. In this may Your name be glorified Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen."*

## A Spiritual Reflection on Today's Gospel

**The Canaanite Woman Shows GREAT FAITH — GOSPEL Matthew 15: 21-28**

Although the Canaanite woman comes to Jesus in humility, she speaks assertively, saying, "have mercy on me." She seems to presume to command Jesus. She is certain not only of His divine power but also His merciful willingness to use that power to help her. Naturally, this sure faith is worked by the Holy Spirit, as Jesus comments, "you have great faith!" Interestingly, she calls Jesus "Son of David," an appellation we would expect from the Jews, not a Gentile. Her address suggests she

understands the Old Testament prophecy, which so many Jews of the flesh did not. The Gospel is expressed directly to the woman as the Lord acknowledges her faith and heals her daughter. He forgives the woman's since through her faith rather than through Jewish heredity. Indirectly, the Lord also shows mercy to the Jews present. Jesus' remark, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," is also intended for the Jewish disciples, not for the woman only. The Jews and Christians must understand two things: **(1) without Christ, we are the lost, unsaved sheep of Israel; 2) salvation through faith is for us just as it is for the woman.** Although these words are more an action of the Law to convict the heart, Jesus' desire is to move His disciples to the Gospel.

## Pope Francis Speaks

**Summary of the Holy Father's recent words at St. Peter Square**

*Dear brothers and sisters:* Today we view our catechesis on discernment as the process of coming to a sound understanding of the Lord's will for our lives. An



important aid to discernment is the practice of spiritual direction, in which we share with another person the movements of the Spirit in our heart and, in confronting our own frailty, draw closer to the Lord, who took upon himself and redeemed the weakness of our humanity. The Gospels speak of Jesus' many encounters with persons who opened their hearts to him and experienced his mercy and forgiveness. In conversation with a spiritual guide, we often

discern more clearly the true direction of our lives and the quiet working of God's grace in our hearts. Spiritual accompaniment also expresses the communitarian nature of our journey to perfection, since together we are members of Christ's body, sons and daughters of the Father and sharers in the life of the Spirit. As our teacher in the art of discernment we can look to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who leads us to Jesus, who urges us not to fear, but to trust in him and in his words of eternal life.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 16 ..... Annual Federal Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. — No Banking/Postal Services  
 January 18-25 ..... Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.  
 February 2 ..... Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 a.m.; (NS) 5:50 p.m.  
 February 4 ..... MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting in the Parish office @ 2:00 p.m.  
 February 5 ..... NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.  
 February 10-11 ..... First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
 February 19 ..... (MR) Forgiveness Vespers initiating The Great Fast Season @ 2:00 p.m.  
 February 20 ..... **PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.**  
 (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 9:00 a.m. (NS) Great Penitential Canon of St.  
 Andrew of Crete with Great Metanies @ 6:00 p.m.  
 February 22 ..... **PURE WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30  
 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.  
 February 24 ..... **PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30  
 p.m.; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

## Saint of the Week — January 16

### Veneration of the Precious Chains of St. Peter

. The Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter: In

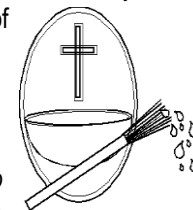


about the year 42, on the orders of Herod Agrippa, the **Apostle Peter was thrown into prison for preaching about Christ the Savior. In prison he was held secure by two iron chains.** During the night before his trial, an angel of the Lord removed these chains from the Apostle Peter and led him out from the prison (Acts 12:1-11). Christians who learned of the miracle took

the chains and kept them as precious keepsakes. For three centuries the chains were kept in Jerusalem, and those who were afflicted with illness and approached them with faith received healing. Patriarch Juvenal (July 2) presented the chains to Eudocia, wife of the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and she in turn transferred them from Jerusalem to Constantinople in either the year 437 or 439. Eudocia sent one chain to Rome to her daughter Eudoxia (the wife of Valentinian), who built a church on the Esquiline hill dedicated to the Apostle Peter and placed the chain in it. There were other chains in Rome, with which the Apostle Peter was shackled before his martyrdom under the emperor Nero. These were also placed in the church.

## General Announcements

**WHY YOUR HOME SHOULD BE BLESSED EACH YEAR** — Traditionally, the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our home, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office.



### THE MANY BENEFITS OF SANCTIFIED AND HOLY WATER

Because sanctified and holy water is one of the Church's sacramentals, it remits venial sin. Keep your soul beautifully pure in God's sight by making the Sign of the Cross carefully while



saying: *"Wash me with hyssop and I shall become clean, cleanse me and I will be whiter than snow"* (Psalm 51). Draw Blessings down on Your Loved Ones. Holy water, sprinkled with faith and piety, can move the Sacred Heart to bless your loved ones and protect them from all harm of soul and body. When worry and fear take possession of your heart, hasten to your holy water font, and give your dear ones the benefit of the Church's prayers. **HOLY WATER USES:** Bless Yourself and Others (family & friends) Bless Your Pets Bless Your House (especially during bad weather); Bless Your Electronics (computers, televisions, etc.); Bless Your Car, Motorcycle, and/or Boat, Bless Your Work Space; Bless the Sick and Dying Sprinkle Some on the Graves when you visit a Cemetery & also sprinkle some for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Proper Disposal of

Holy Water: **Remember to discard previous years Sanctified Water in a respectable manner such as watering your plants or place it in an area of the ground that is not walked on! It is not to be poured down the sink drain! Also, you may bring it to North Side Church to be drained in a holy sink called a Sacarium.**

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR B.C.W. SUBSCRIPTION**— A good source of Archieparchial News is *The Byzantine Catholic World*. News and photographs concerning all parishes are reported. Our parishes cannot sustain the cost on a complimentary basis. Please submit \$14.00 in the special envelope in your contribution box. If you are subscribing for the first time, please make a notation on the envelope: **NEW SUBSCRIBER**. This will help the Church office to expedite your request.

**SUPPORTING THE CHURCH IS AN IMPORTANT PRECEPT** — A reminder, once again, that it is the policy of HGC is that if you have not contributed for two full years, your envelopes will be removed in respect of your decision. Don't worry, if you wish to be reinstated, just phone the Church office and ask to be reinstated. It is as easy as that. If you are not currently receiving contribution envelopes, please contact the Church office A.S.A.P. and request to be put on the list. Envelopes signify your membership to the parish.

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