

Parish Offerings – Feast of Circumcision — January 1, 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 (\$2,788) Christmas (\$307)	\$3,095.00
Holy Day (\$375) YP (\$5)	380.00
Votive Candles (\$151.79) Initial (\$3,147)	3,298.79
	<hr/> \$6,773.79

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$590.40) Christmas (\$25)	\$615.40
Holy Day (\$55) YP (\$1)	56.00
Improvement (\$45) Utilities (\$15) BCW (\$14)	74.00
Votive Candles (\$39.25) Initial (\$52) YP (\$1)	92.25
	<hr/> \$837.65

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (24)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (58); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)

Theophany — Thurs. (MR) 7:00 p.m. (21); Fri. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (28); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (n/a)



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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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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
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Sunday after Theophany — January 8, 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 – 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: 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

. As the prophet foretold, a Great Light, Christ, has shown upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali. A people living in darkness have seen a Great Light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is a protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today (Ikos of Theophany Matins).

January 8, 2023 Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIII, Number 2
Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!
Christos Kreščajetsja! — Vo Jordan'ii!

Liturgical Schedule of the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
Sunday after the Enlightenment			
Sunday after Theophany — Renewal of Baptismal Promises			
SUN, JAN 8	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Deceased McCusker Family	Peggy & Church
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (birthday 1/12)	Valeriano & Kallop Families
Mon, Jan 9	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Josephine Zula (13 th ann of passing 1/7)	Zula Family
Tue, Jan 10	8:00 a.m. (NS)	+ John J. Wayne (22 nd ann of passing 1/9)	MaryEllen & John Oslick
Wed, Jan 11	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Andrew J. Drukalsky (birthday 1/9)	Sister: Eleanor Masters
Thrs, Jan 12	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Harsh (birthday) + Dorothy Sadler (4 th ann of passing)	Beverly Harsh & Family
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) For the intention of World Peace			
Fri, Jan 13	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Maletz 	Son: Robert & Martha
Final Day of the Theophany Feast			
Sat. Jan 14	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 32nd Sunday after Pentecost			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Claudia C. Verner (6 th ann of passing 1/16)	Husband: George

The 32nd Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, JAN 15 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh Lecci Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak, Jr. Wife: Jane
(10th ann of passing 1/13)

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 10 – MARY ANN SMOLEY; Jan 11 – Dennis Uram; Jan 12 – Michael Tomchak; Jan 13 – Noreen Muha; Jan 14 – Diane Bell, James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, 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 Cifrukak. Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.
LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALANAS.
UPMC PASSAVANT (9100 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Irene Bordas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why must we practice Simple Abstinence (no meat) or do an Equivalent Penance (your choice) on Fridays? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Church asks us to abstain from meat or accomplish an Equivalent Penance on Fridays as a means of offering our bodies as a living sacrifice in union with Christ (Rom. 12:1; CCC 1434). The purpose is not to make life tough for us, but only asks us to do what is ultimately good for us. We are obliged to do some sort of penance virtually every Friday because it is the day of Jesus' Crucifixion, the ultimate sacrifice (CCC 1438). We do penance for several reasons: (1) As a way to atone for sins of the past, both ours and others (Col. 1:24); (2) To learn to master our inclinations towards sin (Jas. 1:2-4); (3) To help us prepare for the spiritual feast of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter & every Sunday; (4) As a sign of our conversion; and (5) As a way to purify our soul (CCC 2043).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jan 8 — Jan 14, 2023

(MR): In memory of Diane Voight (11th ann of passing 1/7)

offered by Sister: Janet Sendro

(NS) In memory of Michael P. Harsh (birthday 1/12)

(MR) Limited available for 2023

offered by Wife: Beverly

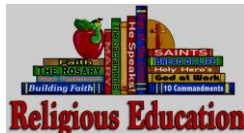
(NS) Available for 2023

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

NEWLY-WEDS OF OUR PARISH — On Monday, December 26, 2022, parishioners Seminarian-Reader **NATHANIEL JAMES TAPSAK** and **NATALIA ELIZABETH WOHA** were united in the Holy Mystery of Matrimony at our Holy Ghost Church at 3:00 p.m. The principal celebrant was Father Will Rupp who was delegated to perform the Nuptial Ceremony. Fr. David Abernathy delivered the homily. Archbishop Skurla presided. Our Parish extends its most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Nate and Natalia. May God grant you many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita.

ECF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM COMMENCES THIS WEEK — The second semester for the *Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.)* Program commences today, **January 8, 2023** following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Parents, God-parents and Guardians, If your children are not enrolled in this program, please have them attend these religious education classes. Contact Coordinator Steve Pulka (412) 897- 4650. Please be sure your children are enrolled and there each week. Our teachers sacrifice their time in preparing the lesson plan so that all children may benefit in religious education.



NORTH SIDE

No particular Announcements this week

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 on **Sunday, 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.

The Effects of Holy and Sanctified Water

The Catechism teaches that the sacramentals, consequently holy water, operate principally by means of the Church's intercession (CCC 1667). The Church is the bride of the Divine Savior, and hence her prayers are always pleasing to God. When the Church prays, the divine bridegroom prays with her, and for this reason her prayer is powerful with God. Thus, it may happen that a lukewarm Christian may derive great benefit from the use of holy water. The reason for this is that God looks not on the unworthiness of mankind but rather on the prayer of the Church, so pleasing to Him. Especially, though, will the loyal children of the Church, who seek to coordinate their ideas to those of the divine Savior and of the Church, participate in the blissful effects of holy water. **1. Use holy water to drive away the devil; 2. Use holy water to overcome temptations; 3. You can use holy water to drive away sickness – and future illness too; 4. Holy water cleanses soul from venial sins and temporal punishments; 5. Take advantage of those sanctifying effects found with holy water; and 6. Use holy water for the comfort and release of the holy souls in Purgatory.**

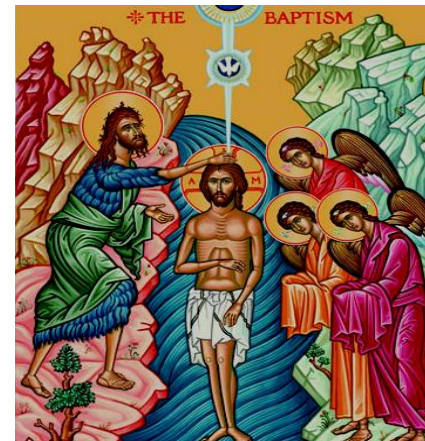


CONTINUING THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST Sunday after the Enlightenment



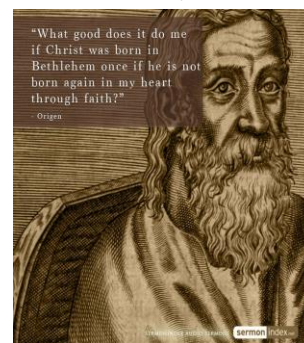
GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17

We are currently in the Postfestive period of Holy Theophany, and it is designated to be a continuation of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This Sunday is referred to as the "Sunday after the Enlightenment." This designation comes from the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the "Enlightenment." It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus' own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared for their initiation and admission into the Church received baptism, chrismation and eucharist on that day. Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one's own baptism, and how its relevance and personal effect have called us to be God's new chosen people. What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with Jesus' Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us? During this special year of Mercy, take this Sunday's celebration to heart and recommit yourself to Christ since He promises eternal life and great mercy.



The (Church) Fathers Know Best

The Early Church Fathers believed that being baptized was being born again.



They baptized both adults and infants and they used three methods; immersion, pouring and sprinkling. **Tertullian:** "No one can attain salvation without baptism, especially in view of the declaration of the Lord, who says, "Unless a man shall be born of water, he shall not have life" (On Baptism 12:1 [A.D. 203]. **Origen:** "The Church received from the apostles the tradition of giving baptism even to infants. The apostles, to whom were committed the secrets of divine sacraments, knew there is in everyone innate strains of [original] sin, which must be washed away through water and the Spirit" (Commentaries on Romans 5:9 [A.D. 248])

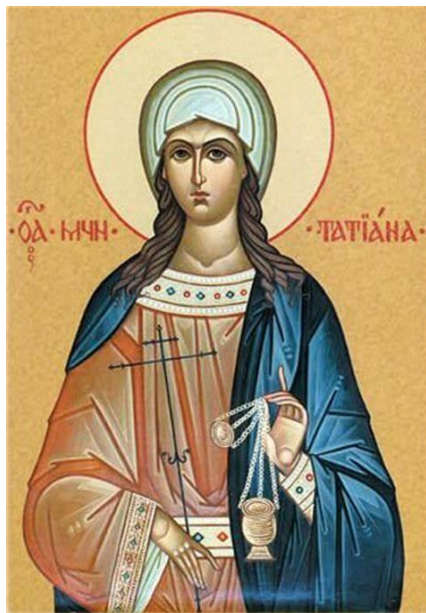
Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 8 Commencement of the 2nd semester of the Religious E.C.F. Program.
 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 am.; (NS) 5:50 pm.
 February 10-11 First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.

Saint of the Week — January 12

The Holy Woman Martyr Tatiana

Tatiana was a Roman whose parents were of great nobility. She was a Christian and a deaconess in the church. After the death of Emperor



Heliogabalus, Emperor Alexander, whose mother Mammae was a Christian, reigned in Rome. The emperor himself was wavering and indecisive in the Faith for he kept statues of Christ, Apollo, Abraham and Orpheus in his palace. His chief assistants persecuted the Christians without the emperor's orders. When they brought out the virgin Tatiana for torture, she prayed to God for her torturers. And behold, their eyes were opened and they saw four angels around the martyr. Seeing this, eight of them believed in Christ for which they also were tortured and slain. The tormentors continued to torture St.

Tatiana. They whipped her, cut off parts of her body; they scraped her with irons. All disfigured and bloody, Tatiana was thrown into the dungeon that evening so that the next day, they could, again, begin anew with different tortures. But God sent His angels to the dungeon to encourage her and to heal her wounds so that, each morning, Tatiana appeared before the torturers completely healed. They threw her before a lion, but the lion endeared himself to her and did her no harm. They cut off her hair, thinking, according to their pagan reasoning, that some sorcery or some magical power was concealed in her hair. Finally, Tatiana along with her father were both beheaded. Thus, Tatiana ended her earthly life about the year 225 A.D., and this heroic virgin, who had the fragile body of a woman but a robust and valiant spirit, was crowned with the immortal wreath of glory.

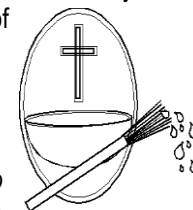
General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK — Just a reminder that The Feast of Holy Theophany – The Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, celebrated this past week on **January 6 was a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.**



The Canon Law of our Byzantine Catholic Church states: *“The Christian faithful are bound by the obligation to participate on Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation) in the Divine Liturgy”* (Canon 881#1); and *“are recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on these days ...”* (Canon 881 #3); *“and should abstain from those labors or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God”* (Canon 881 #4). Negligence of this church precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntarily neglect. Please come to Confession before approaching Holy Communion.

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.



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. Would you please help us and place the amount on your envelope?!? Be sure that your checks are signed with the new year and that you place the contribution in the envelope or if several envelopes with one check attach with a paperclip. Often we receive an envelope with nothing inside. **Submit all envelopes even if writing one check.** It helps our bookkeeping!

SUPPORTING THE CHURCH IS AN IMPORTANT PRECEPT — Just a quick reminder in regarding Church envelopes. Your weekly sacrificial contributions are extremely important for the sustenance of church maintenance and programs. It is one of the chief precepts of all Catholic Churches. It is also actively important to participate with fellow parishioners to carry the responsibility. Lacking to do so demonstrates careless stewardship, and may render one ineligible to stand as a sponsor for Baptism and/or Chrismation or parochial privileges. The policy of HGC is that if you have not contributed for two full years, your envelopes have 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.

	NAME: _____
	ADDRESS: _____
	CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
	PHONE NUMBER: _____
	AMOUNT: \$ _____