

Parish Offerings – 31st Sunday after Pentecost — 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 (\$2,247) YP (\$9)	\$2,287.00
Holy Day (\$121) Easter Décor (\$20)	141.00
Initial (\$73) B.C.W. (\$127)	200.00
Votive Candles	150.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,778.50

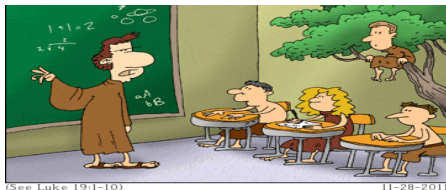
Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$952.95) YP (\$1)	\$953.95
Holy Day	20.00
Initial (\$42) Improvement (\$40) B.C.W. (\$42).....	124.00
Votive Candles	105.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,203.45

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (32)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (72); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)



YOUNG ZACCHAEUS IN SCHOOL



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

LOOK OUT, EVERYBODY! I'M
GONNA BE CRABBY FOR
THE REST OF THE DAY!!



DESIGNS BY NANCY

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

Nancy C.
Debranski

*Sewing, Alterations, Custom
Embroidery and Unique Gifts*

**This space is
now available
for one day
one week
and/or one
year**



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
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday

Annual Prayer for Christian Unity — January 22, 2023



(Isaiah 1:17)



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.

Carpetho-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 22, 2023

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIII, Number 4





Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Schedule of the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
 Sunday of Zacchaeus The 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday 5th 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 th ann of passing 1/17)	Dgtr: Mary Ann
Mon, Jan 23	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Debra Ann Palahunik (6 th ann of passing)	Diana Hlad
Tue, Jan 24	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Diane Vida (memorial)	Family
<i>Our Father among the Saints, Gregory the Theologian</i> <i>Final Day of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity</i>			
Wed, Jan 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Dr. Frank Sessions	Mary Lou Kriegel
Thrs, Jan 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joseph Hrebenak (37 th ann of passing)	Dgtr: Maria, Luke & Anita
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) For the intention of World Peace			
Fri, Jan 27	 8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Basil P. Gramata	M/M Timothy Holleran & Family
Sat, Jan 28	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Olga Manfredo (1 st ann of passing 1/16)	Anonymous

 Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Sunday of Publican & Pharisee – 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday
4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

The 2nd Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN, JAN 22 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Jos. A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert J. Galida Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen
 (45th ann of passing 1/21)

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 23 – Dean Poloka, Lydia Sell; Jan 24 – Alaina Usowski

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 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. Will God accept you if you are gay? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Certainly, if a homosexual person lives a chaste life and does not act on his or her orientation (2 Tim 2:19; Sirach 21:1-2). In fact, if a homosexual remains chaste, he or she will surely store up heavenly treasures due to the difficulties they face (CCC 2358). A chaste homosexual is truly heroic, especially in this age when the lifestyle is so widely tolerated and even promoted (1 Pet 2:11; Rom 12:1). God is love, so in that sense He “accepts” everybody. But He does not accept everything a person does (1 Jn 4:8). The real question is, will we accept God? Will we accept His love for us, even if that means giving up whatever sinful lifestyle we have chosen (Mt 5:1-12, 6:19-21)? The pressure to abandon God’s laws is certainly great!

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Jan 22 — Jan 28, 2023

(MR): In memory of Margaret & George Kurtanich (wed. ann.)
 offered by Children

(NS) In memory of Olga Manfredo (1st ann of passing 1/16)
 (MR) Limited available for 2023 offered by Anonymous (NS) Available for 2023

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

MEETING TODAY TO DISCUSS PIROHI PROJECT — We are working to organize plans for this year's Lenten Pirohi Project. All Volunteers for the Project are asked to gather today in the



Church following the Divine Liturgy. Also here is the tally of our pre-Christmas sales: Total in The Parish Savings & Share prior: \$52,549.27 — **November/December Sales: \$21,400.00; Expenses: -\$3,852.26; Rockefeller Luncheon: -\$680.16; Minus Cathedralicum: -\$843.38. Total Proceeds: \$16,024.20 (Deposited**

into the Parish Savings & Share Account). Extra-ordinary Expenses from the Pirohi Project: (1) Motor for Kitchen Stove Hood: -\$607.81; Containers (-\$921.91); New Tables: (-\$33.06). Actual cost of 4 New Tables from LIFELINE (\$800.00) minus gift from Randy Baden, GCU Insurance Agent: (\$320.00); plus, gift from Local GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge: (\$446.94) equals Pirohi Cost of -\$33.06. Balance in account: \$67,010.69. A special note of gratitude to all our Pirohi Workers, to Randy Baden, and to the former GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge for their sacrificial and thoughtful gifts. May God always remember all that you do for our local Holy Ghost Church!

PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MOVED EARLIER — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of meeting change now slated for **Saturday, February 4, 2023 @ 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.

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**



EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ENDS 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."



Today's Gospel Meditation

The 1st of Five Sundays Prior to the Great Fast

The **DESIRE** to Follow Jesus (Luke 19: 1-10)

Today commences the first of five Sundays in preparation to the Lenten



Season which is still one month away. The theme of "Repentance" is set before us and continues for two forthcoming Sundays. Today lesson is the first Pregreatfast **Sunday of Zacchaeus.** His name means PURE or JUSTIFIED. HE was the wealthy man of Jerusalem who gathered revenue for the Roman government, but who became a disciple of Christ (Luke 19:1-10). A "chief publican," Zacchaeus might have been of a higher grade than Matthew. Although not one of Christ's expected converts, Zacchaeus had heard much about Christ and **DESIRED** to see Him for himself.

When ultimately Christ came his way there were two obstacles in his way—the crowd, and his own short stature. But he quickly overcame both hindrances. Our Lord called Zacchaeus down and invited Himself to his house. Zacchaeus was a sinner and Christ saved him. Quickly Zacchaeus revealed the depth of his **DESIRE** and surrendered to his newly found Master. There came an immediate and generous restitution. His **DESIRE** for Jesus teaches us that through Repentance we take our first serious step to surrender ourselves to Him and follow it by good deeds.

Pope Francis Speaks

Summary of the Holy Father's recent words at St. Peter Square on Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters: In our catechesis **on apostolic zeal, the desire to share with others the joy of the Gospel,** we now look to its model and source: the example of Jesus himself. As the eternal Word of God, made flesh for our salvation, Jesus' entire life was devoted to communicating and dialoguing with others, first with his heavenly Father in profound prayer, and then with others, especially the poor, the outcast and sinners. He proclaimed the coming of God's Kingdom not only by his preaching, but also by his ministry of healing, reconciliation and forgiveness. As the Good Shepherd, the model for all pastors in the Church, Jesus was completely committed to the welfare of his flock, protecting the fold yet also setting out in search of the lost sheep. Following his example, may we, in our daily lives, draw joy and strength from our union with the Father in prayer, allow our hearts to be shaped by pastoral zeal for the word of God, and strive, in all our words and actions, to share with others its saving message of joy, hope and new life.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

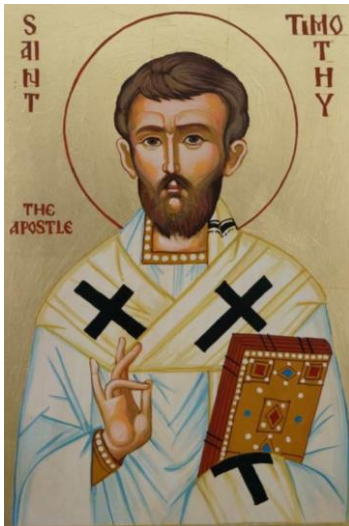
January 18-25 Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.
 February 2Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 a.m.; (NS) 5:50 p.m.
 February 4 MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting in the Parish office @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 5 NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting following 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) 1st & 3rd 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) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 February 24**PURE FRIDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week — January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy of the Seventy

The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor (present day Turkey). Saint Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul (June 29). When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, Saint Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future Saint Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5). The seed of faith, planted in Saint Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became Saint Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved Saint Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude. He wrote to Timothy:

"You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul appointed Saint Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when Saint Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend, Saint Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9). Saint Timothy ended his life as a martyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. Saint Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ. The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. Saint Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.



General Announcements

INVITE YOUR PASTOR TO BLESS YOUR HOME 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.



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.

GRATITUDE TO ALL FROM BOTH PARISHES — A special thank you is extended to all who stayed to dismantle the Christmas decorations last week at both parishes. Your sacrificial and unselfish gesture made it possible to complete the task within a reasonable time. Team-Work is awesome! God bless you for your assistance! May God grant you many happy and blessed years full of health and happiness! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



A FEW SANCTUARY LAMPS STILL AVAILABLE IN 2023 FOR BOTH PARISHES — A small amount off Sanctuary Lamps are available for your intentions at both parishes. They are \$10.00 each and are burned before the Tabernacle of Our Lord Jesus' Real Presence throughout the week. Submit your request and stipend in a regular envelope and who it is that is offering.



Economic Inflation has finally hit our 6-Day Votive Candles. Beginning on February 2, the Candle will increase to \$5.00. Currently, we are taking a slight loss in Candle revenue ☹️