

Parish Offerings – Sunday after Christmas — Dec. 31, 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 (\$1,416) YP (\$10)	\$1,426.00
Holy Days (\$71) Christmas (\$1,815)	1,886.00
Votive Candles	98.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,410.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$610.50) YP (\$10)	\$620.50
Holy Days (\$10) Christmas (\$125)	135.00
Special Donation (In mem. of + Msgr. Tay by Fr. Stephen Wahal)	100.00
Votive Candles	48.00
	<hr/>
	\$903.50

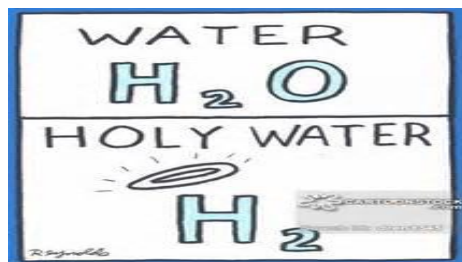
Church Attendance Last Week

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

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (53); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)

Circumcision of the Lord – Feast of St. Basil the Great – New Year's Day

Mon, (MR) 9:00 am (12); (NS) 11:00 am (8)

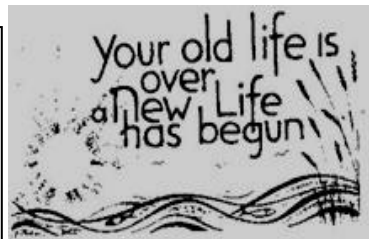


Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
Phone: (412) 331-9713

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano

(412) 638-3417

PA #172370



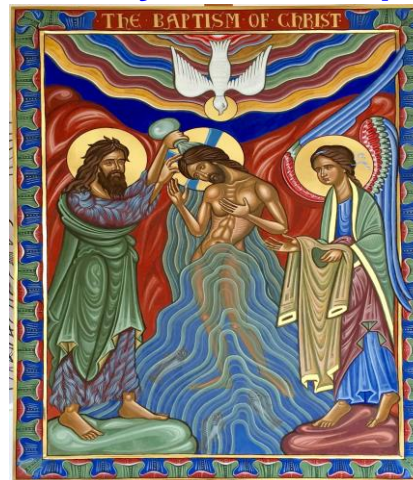
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Sunday after Theophany — January 7, 2024



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor

The Reverend Deacon Michael 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.

d. Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: c-rsmedia.org.

Social Hall Rental: (MR) Contact Church Office.

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 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 Zebulun, 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 7, 2024

Theophany Christian Greeting: Volume XIV, Number 1

(Through January 14):

Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!
Christos Kreščajetsja! — Vo Jordan'!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date **Time** **Intention** **Requested By**

Sunday after the Enlightenment

SUN, Jan 7 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (birthday 1/12) Valeriano & Kallop Families

Mon, Jan 8 *** **7:30 a.m. (MR)** + Josephine Zula Zula Family
(14th ann of passing 1/7)
10:00 a.m. (MR) Funeral of Stephen Katrenich

Tue, Jan 9 **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Gregory Wohar Joyce & Jim Walsh
(40th day of passing 12/29)

Wed, Jan 10 **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + John J. Wayne MaryEllen & John Oslick
(23rd ann of passing 1/7)

Venerable Father Theodosius

Thrs, Jan 11 **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Darko S. Gataric (birthday) Mom & Dad

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE or EQUIVIALNT PENANCE (your choice) for the intention of World Peace

Fri, Jan 12 **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Michael Harsh (birthday) Kim Ruud
+ Dorothy Sadler (5th ann of passing)

Saturday after the Enlightenment

Sat, Jan 13 **9:00 a.m. (NS)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Zacchaeus — 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John R. Debranski (birthday 1/12) Dgrtr: Nancy

Final Day the Enlightenment

Sunday of Zacchaeus — 1st Pregreat Fast Sunday

SUN, Jan 14 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Mary + Michael Korim + Mary Firko + Mary Hrivnak
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll Son: William

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 to be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Jan 7— Betty Warhola; **Jan 10** — MARY ANN SMOLEY; **Jan 11** — Dennis Uram; **Jan 12** — Michael Tomchak; **Jan 13** — Noreen Muha.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Diane Bell, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Elizabeth Poznak, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.
VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrulak. Mildred Terrek.

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

CONCORDIA VILLA OF ST. JOSEPH (1030 State St., Baden, PA 15005): John Marks

HERITAGE VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

UPMC SHADYSIDE (5230 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232): JOHN NEWPORT.

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

January 7 — January 13, 2024

(MR): **In memory of Diane Voight** (12th ann of passing 1/7)

offered by Sister: Janet Sendro & Family

(NS): **In memory of Michael Harsh** (birthday 1/12)

(MR) AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Family

(NS) AVAILABLE 2024

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner, **Stephen Katrenich, 98**, formerly of McKees Rocks on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at the Metro Health Hospital, Cleveland, OH. He was currently residing at Chippewa Place, Brecksville, OH, near his family. He is survived by a Son, Tom (Cathy) and Daughter, Barbara (Michael) Persichetti. He is also survived by grandchildren, Thomas, Sara & Catherine Katrenich; and sister, Helen King. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the McDermott Funeral Home, Kennedy Township. A Parastas will be offered today @ 3:00 p.m. The Funeral Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday, January 8th @ 10:00 a.m.. Interment follows at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. Our parish extends its most sincere



condolences to the Katrenich, Persichetti and King Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Stephen, and remember him forever. Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'!

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 on Sunday, January 21, 2024** following the Divine Liturgy. When additional information is available, it will appear in an upcoming S.O.T.



NORTH SIDE

THANK YOU FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES — The following letter from Light of Life Rescue Mission: Dear North Side Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church: This year we are celebrating our



70th year in existence. We are more committed than ever to helping our vulnerable and underserved neighbors. It is only through your support and the support of the Pittsburgh community that we are able to keep our lights on and serve our clients with dignity and respect. We are grateful of your monetary gift of

\$100.00 which provides life-changing care to the poor and homeless of our area. I pray that the Lord blesses and protects you in this year. May you find peace and joy in this new year. Thank you for your prayers and donations." — Rev. Jerrel T. Gilliam, Executive Director.

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.

2023 Individual Financial Statement
Available Upon Request

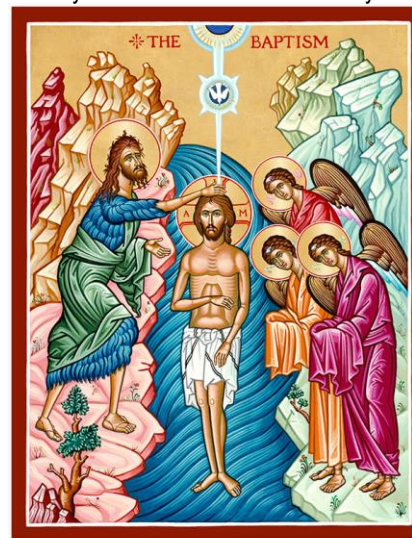


CONTINUING THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST Sunday after the Enlightenment



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

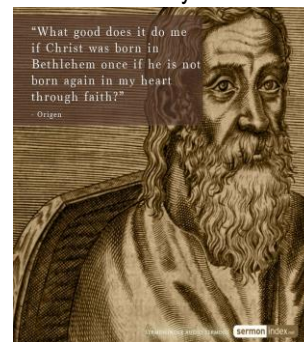


the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the "Enlightenment." It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus' own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared 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?

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 14 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.
 February 2 .Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 am.; (NS) 5:50 pm.
 followed by the reading of the Hramoty
 February 3 The 1st Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) at 9:00 a.m.
 February 10 (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting Saturday @ 2:00 p.m.
 February 11 (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the DL.
 February 12 **PURE MONDAY: The Beginning of the Holy 40 Days Fast — NO MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.**

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Venerable Father Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves — January 11

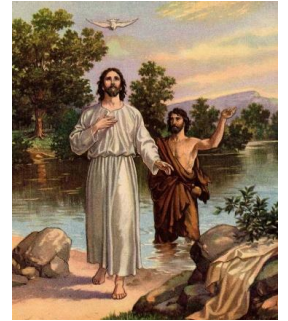
Theodosius was the first founder and organizer of the cenobitic way of monastic life. He was born in the province of Cappadocia in the village of Mogarissus of devout parents. As a child, he visited St. Simeon the Stylite who blessed him and prophesied great and spiritual honors about him. With a kadilnica [censer] in which he placed unburned charcoal and incense, Theodosius sought out a place where he could settle and establish his monastery and stopped when the kadilo fired up on its own. Here, he settled and began to live the ascetical life. Soon, he gathered around him many monks of various nationalities. He built a church for each nationality so that, at the same time, services and hymns were offered to God in Greek, Armenian, Georgian, etc. But, on the day of Holy Communion, all the



brotherhood gathered in the great church in which the Greek language was used. There was a communal table for all, communal property, communal penance, communal labor, communal patience and, not too rare, communal hunger. Theodosius was an exalted model of life to all the monks; an example in labor, prayer, fasting, watchfulness and in all Christian virtues. God granted him the gift of working miracles by which he was able to heal the sick, to appear from a distance, to tame wild beasts, to discern the future and to cause bread and wheat to multiply. Prayer was on his lip's day and night. He died peacefully in the Lord in the year 529 A.D., the one-hundred fifth year after his birth.

General Announcements

POSTFESTIVE OF THEOPHANY — Saturday, January 6, 2024, we celebrated the *Feast of Holy Theophany*. It was the Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ! On this sacred Feast water was solemnly blessed. There is plenty of this water available. Throughout this month, please remember to bring your own container for the newly sanctified water. Each home should have newly sanctified water. Last year's holy water is to be discarded reverently in a place that is not trampled upon. **DO NOT pour it down the drain.** If you find it difficult to discard bring it to the Church. The Northside has a holy sink that drains into the ground beneath the church. You are encouraged to use the newly sanctified water throughout the New Year by anointing yourself with it and even drinking it.



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, was



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.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS — It's that time of year to think about filing our taxes. Our Holy Ghost wishes to credit you whatever you contributed in 2023. Thank you for remembering your Church throughout 2023! May God bless your sacrificial generosity so that our Holy Ghost Church may continue to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). If you do not have contribution envelopes, please call the Church Office and ask for them. To be an active member of Holy Ghost, you must have envelopes demonstrating your membership.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE —
January 21: Dean Polka, "From Rus' to the Rocks" on the Carpatho-Rusyn ancestors of our Church;
January 28: Subdeacon Luke, "Sealed with the Spirit" on Holy Chrismation