

Parish Offerings – Man Born Blind Sunday — May 5, 2024

“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 (\$3,062) YP (\$2)	\$3,064.00
Hoy Days	145.00
Seminary Collection	420.00
Votive Candles	220.51
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	\$3,849.51

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$856) YP (\$1)	857.00
Hoy Day	25.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvement (\$15)	25.00
Votive Candles (\$54.50) Seminary Collection (\$5)	59.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$966.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (23)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (63); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (19)

Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) — Wed. (MR) 7:00 p.m. (12);

Thrs. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (20); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (31)



Szal
Valerian F. Szal
 238 Helen St.,
 Phone: (412) 331-9713
Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



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 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
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Handyman Services
 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

SUNDAY OF 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Postfestive of the Ascension

Annual Mother's Day — May 12, 2024



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 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.
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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

Let us honor today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, namely the God-mantled Fathers who speaking of divine things sang in the midst of the Church a hymn in unison, teaching that the Trinity is one, not differing in substance or Godhead, refuting Arius and defending the true faith. They always intercede with the Lord to have mercy on our souls (Great Vespers of the 1st Ecumenical Council Fathers)

May 12, 2024 **Seasonal Christian Greeting:** Volume XIV, Number 19

Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUM. COUNCIL			
Postfestive of the Ascension — Annual Mother's Day			
SUN, May 12 9:00 a.m. (MR) For all Living & Deceased Mothers of Both Parishes			
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert M. Smoley (45 th ann of pass 5/14) Dgtr: Mary Ann			
Mon, May 13	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Paraska Gramata	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George (26 th ann. of passing 5/12)
Tues, May 14	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula (Ordination)	Zula Famiy
Wed, May 15	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ William C. Poloka (3 rd ann. of passing 5/16)	Anonymous
Thrs, May 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Muska	Son: Mike

Final Day of the Ascension Feast

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

Fri, May 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare of Neve Anthony Mell	Sister: Regina
	6:00 p.m. (MR)	Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary	

Fifth & Final Universal All Souls Saturday Vigil

6:00 p.m. (NS) All Souls w/Reading of Hramoty

FIFTH & FINAL UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat., May 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) All Souls w/Reading of Hramoty

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Skowron + Thomas Families Michael Maslaney



SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast — MIROVANJE

SUN, May 19	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Fejka (birthday 5/15)	Dgtr: Susie
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna Spontak (20 th ann of passing 5/22)	Son: Robert

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

May 12 – Kim Zoldos; **May 15** – George Mosko; **May 16** – NATHANIEL HELMS, Loretta Keller; **May 17** – John Oslick, Anita Sidun, **May 18** – Daniel Rowe.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, Diane Bell, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Albert Kovacs, Sr., Kathe Kress, William Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, JOHN NEWPORT, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Evelyn Yakubik.

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.

FORBES REGIONAL HOSPITAL (2570 Haymaker Rd., Monroeville, PA 15146): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Poznak.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What does "honor your father and your mother" mean? If the parents are abusive, does this change anything? **A. Catholic Apologist, Jim Blackburn.:** St. Paul clarifies the fourth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you" (Ex. 20:12), in his letter to the Ephesians: "Children, obey your parents *in the Lord*, for this is right (Eph. 6:1, emphasis added). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) explains: As long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all that they ask of him when it is for his good or that of the family . . . But if a child is convinced in conscience that it would be morally wrong to obey a particular order, he must not do so . . . Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so with respect, which is always owed to them. (CCC 2217)

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 12 – May 18, 2024

(MR): **Thanksgiving** (72nd wedding anniversary (5/17)

offered by Dolores & Ted Babin

(NS): **In memory of Agnes & Anthony Knoll**

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) None AVAILABLE 2024



General Announcements

McKees Rocks & North Side

Our Christian Responsibility & Duty

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION LAST WEEK — This past Thursday was **Ascension**



Thursday and 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) at 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). Neglectful fulfillment of this precept

renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.

2 Weeks Remaining to fulfill Your Easter Duty!

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT FORTHCOMING — June 21-23 is the date of the upcoming Young Adult Retreat at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, Uniontown. The weekend invites men and women into “Strengthening Discipleship.” The program runs from 7 pm Friday to 12 pm Sunday; the offering is \$115. Scholarships available. Registration due June 14. To register call 724-438-7149.

NEW DISPLAY SIGNS ON THE PREMISES — Six new signs replaced the old worn-out ones around the MR Church. The Novum Sign Company, Pittsburgh, created, painted and installed the new signs two weeks ago. Your weekly contributions really helped to make this improvement. God bless your weekly sacrifice for the Church.

MOTHER’S DAY COMMEMORATED TODAY— In its present form, *Mother’s Day* was established by **Anna Marie Jarvis**, following the death of her mother Ann Jarvis on May 9, 1905, with the help of Philadelphia merchant John Wanamaker. A small service was held on May 12, 1907 in the Andrew’s Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia where Anna’s mother had been teaching Sunday school. Anna then campaigned to establish Mother’s Day first as a U.S. national holiday. *On May 8, 1914, the U.S.*



Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day and requesting a proclamation. On May 9, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation declaring the first national Mother’s Day as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war. The Grafton’s church, where the first celebration was held, is now the International Mother’s Day Shrine and is a National Historic Landmark. **HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY TO ALL OUR MOMS!**

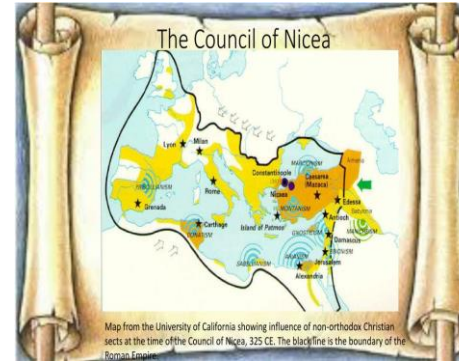
Don’t Forget to Wear GREEN Next Weekend — Pentecost Sunday
OUR PATRONAL FEAST!

THE SEVENTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

The Core of Our Common Faith *(first read John 17: 1-13)*

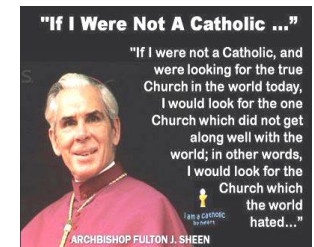
Today, we are commemorating the Fathers of The First Council of Nicaea held in the year 325 AD. It is the first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. *Most significantly, it resulted in the first, extra-biblical, uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.* With the creation of the creed, a precedent was established for subsequent local and regional councils of Bishops (Synods) to create statements of belief and canons of the true faith — the intent being to define unity of essential beliefs for the whole of Christendom. The council did not create the doctrine of the deity of Christ but it did settle, to some degree, the debate within



the Early Christian communities regarding the divinity of Christ. This idea of the divinity of Christ, along with the idea of Christ as a messenger from God (The Father), had long existed in various parts of the Roman Empire. The divinity of Christ had also been widely endorsed by the Christian community in the otherwise pagan city of Rome. The council affirmed and defined what it believed to be the teachings of the Apostles regarding who Christ is: that Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father. Derived from Greek "ecumenical" meaning "worldwide or universal." One purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements arising from within the Church of Alexandria over the nature of the Son in relationship to the Father. Saints Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius claimed that Christ is God and the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arianism comes, denied this claim. The council decided against the Arians overwhelmingly. Of the estimated 318 attendees, all but two agreed to sign the creed and these two, along with Arius, were banished to Illyria. Another result of the council was an agreement on when to celebrate Easter, the most important feast of the ecclesiastical calendar.

Why we need the Catholic Church – In a Nutshell

1. We are made in God’s image and likeness, meant for a deep, loving relationship with him. (Genesis 1:27); 2. Due to sin, we have broken this friendship with God. (Romans 6:23); 3. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, became man, died on the cross, and rose from the grave for our salvation. (Philippians 2:7-10); 4. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and through Jesus our relationship with God is restored. (Ephesians 2:8); 5. Through the Catholic Church which Jesus established while on earth, we have access to grace by Baptism and are nourished by the Eucharist and other sacraments. (Matthew 16:18-19); 6. Through these sacraments, the Holy Spirit changes us, perfects us, fulfills our every desire, ultimately bringing us to eternal beatitude in heaven. (Matthew 5:48).



Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 17 & 18 5th Universal All-Souls Saturday – May 17 (NS) 6:00 p.m.; May 18 (MR) 9:00 a.m.
May 19 Feast of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day
..... Patronal Dinner Celebration & Honoring all our Parish Graduates @ 1:00 pm.
May 20 2nd Day of Pentecost — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 26 Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling the Easter Duty Precept.
May 27 Memorial Day observed; special Divine Liturgy @ 8:00 a.m.
June 2 Ordination to Priesthood of Deacon Tapsak at MR-HGC @ 3:00 p.m. Signup sheet.
June 3-4 Clergy Information Days at St. John Cathedral, Munhall.

Saints of the Week — May 18

The Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra & Companions

The Holy Martyr Theodotus and the Holy Seven Virgins Tecusa, Phaine, Claudia, Matrona, Julia, Alexandra and Euphrasia lived during the second half of the third century in the city of Ancyra, Galatia, and died as martyrs for Christ at the beginning of the fourth century. Saint Theodotus was

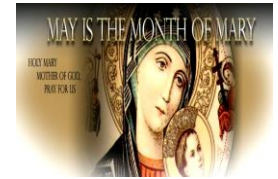


an innkeeper and was married. Theoteknos, prefect of Ancyra, issued a proclamation informing Christians that they were obliged to offer sacrifice to idols, and if they refused, they would be tortured and killed. Pagans would deliver Christians over to torture, and then divide up their property. Theodotus was not afraid to bury the remains of holy martyrs, either carrying them off secretly or ransoming them from the soldiers. When the Christian churches at Ancyra were destroyed and closed, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in his inn. Knowing that martyrdom awaited him, Saint Theodotus predicted that soon they would bring him the relics of martyrs. At this time, seven holy virgins died for Christ. The eldest, Saint Tecusa, was the aunt of Saint Theodotus. The holy virgins Tecusa, Phaine, Claudia, Matrona, Julia, Alexandra and Euphrasia had dedicated themselves to God from their youth, living in constant prayer, fasting, temperance and good deeds. All of them had attained to an advanced age. Brought to trial as Christians,

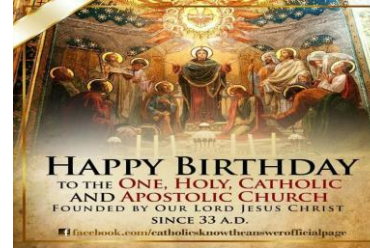
the holy virgins bravely confessed their faith in Christ before Theoteknos and were given over to torture, yet remained steadfast. The prefect then gave them to shameless youths for defilement. The holy virgins prayed intensely, asking help from God. Saint Tecusa fell down at the feet of a youth, and pushing back her veil she showed him her grey hair. The young men were startled, and ran off weeping. The prefect then ordered that the saints take part in offering sacrifice to the idols, but again the holy virgins refused. For this they were sentenced to death. A heavy stone was tied to the legs of each, and all seven of the holy virgins were drowned in a lake. On the following night Saint Tecusa appeared in a dream to Saint Theodotus, asking him to take her body and give it Christian burial. Saint Theodotus, taking with him his friend Polychronius and several other Christians, went to the lake. It was dark, and a torch illumined their way. The holy martyr Sosander appeared in front of the guard who was posted by the pagans at the shore of the lake. The frightened guard ran off in terror. The account of the life and martyrdom of Saint Theodotus and the suffering of the holy virgins was compiled by Nilus, a contemporary and companion of Saint Theodotus. Nilus lived in the city of Ancyra during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian, and witnessed the saint's death. Saint Theodotus is also commemorated on June 7.

General Announcements

MARIAN DEVOTIONS CONTINUE EVERY FRIDAY OF MAY — In all Rites of the Catholic Church, the month of May is especially devoted to the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Come join us at the **HGC-MR on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.** for the offering of the Holy Rosary to the Most Holy Mother of God, especially for peace in Israel and Ukraine. God bless them all!



LAST DAY SIGNUP FOR PATRONAL PENTECOST DINNER — Following last week's Volunteer meeting, our Patronal Feast Day Dinner at the (MR) school hall is planned for



Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m. All Members of both Holy Ghost Parishes of MR & NS are asked to put this day aside to glorify God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) during these green holy days! The event will be a luncheon. The cost: a free-will offering. There will be no tickets, but you **MUST** sign the sheets placed in the (MR) side vestibule; and the (NS) narthex. Further information, please

phone Norma Kacsur (412) 331-4864. *Deadline is today, May 12.*

GRADUATES MUST REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and University/College Graduates on the occasion of our **Patronal Feast, May 19**. All MR & NS graduates will be our guests and receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must phone or email the church office with the following information: (1) *University/College of Graduation; Date of Graduation;* (3) *Graduating Degree;* (4) *Future plans and employment;* and (4) *if will you be attending the Recognition Luncheon.* Call the Church Office A.S.A.P. *Deadline is today, May 12.*



DEACON NATE TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN JUNE — Deacon



Nathaniel J. Tapsak will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood here at MR-HGC on **Sunday, June 2, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m. by Archbishop Skurla**. If you plan on attending both the Ordination Divine Liturgy and reception following over in the gym area, please sign the sheet near the entrances of the Church by Sunday, May 26, 2024.

FINAL ALL SOULS COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK — The 5th and Final All Souls commemoration will be offered this coming **Friday, May 17 (NS); and Saturday, May 18 (MR)**. This final Eucharistic Service in behalf of all Souls comes a day prior to *The Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, also known as Pentecost*. Our prayer is directed to God the Holy Spirit so as to grant eternal rest and a blessed repose to All Souls, especially the names submitted earlier. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat! Come & pray for their repose!

