

Parish Offerings – Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council Sunday — May 12, 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 (\$2,045) YP (\$16)	\$2,061.00
Hoy Days (\$569) YP (\$7)	576.00
Seminary Collection	95.00
Votive Candles	152.10
	<hr/>
	\$2,884.10

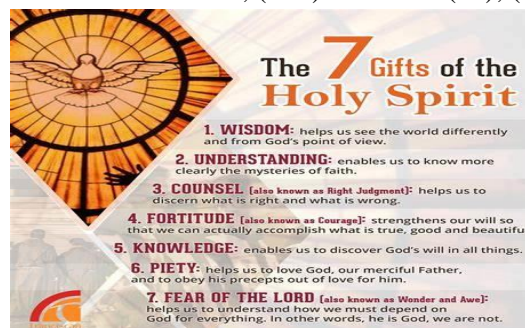
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$664) YP (\$1)	\$665.00
Hoy Day	70.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvement (\$70)	90.00
Votive Candles (\$191.50) Seminary Collection (\$25)	220.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,045.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (20)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (66); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)



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



Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085

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 DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast Day — Rusalja

May 19, 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.

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.

Sacramental Call to Homebound, Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Office A.S.A.P.

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. Church members only.

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

Behold, we celebrate today the Feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of the promise and the realization of hope. How wonderful and awesome is this great mystery! Therefore, O Lord and Creator of all, we cry out: Glory to You! (Great Vespers of Pentecost)

May 19, 2024

Seasonal Christian Greeting:

Volume XIV, Number 20

Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost Sunday – Patronal Feast — Mirovanije

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

PENTECOST MONDAY - FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY – SIMPLE HOLY DAY

Procession to the four corners of the Church proclaiming the Gospel

Traditional NO FASTING/ABSTINENCE this week in the Joy of the coming of the Holy Spirit

Mon, May 20 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia + Frank T. Firko (ann. of pass 5/17 & 5/20)
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Tue, May 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anne Savalchak (14th ann. of passing 5/19) Son: Martin

Wed, May 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Basil P. Gramata Wife: Eleanor & Son: George
(5th ann of passing)

Thrs, May 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Edward Zotyak (birthday) Wife: Florence

Traditional NO FASTING/ABSTINENCE this week in the Joy of the coming of the Holy Spirit

Fri, May 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowatch Anne Meyers
(6th ann of passing)

Sat, May 25 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of All Saints – First Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Rose A. Debranski (birthday 4/28) Dgtr: Nancy



SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS



1st Sunday after Pentecost — Final Day of Easter Duty — Memorial Weekend

SUN, May 26 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Eleanor Kulka Children: Kathy & John
(11th ann of passing)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Margaret "Peg" Krulac Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko
(8th ann of passing 5/22)

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 – Eliana Trapl (belated); May 21 – Aria Grace Albanese; May 22 – Theresa Hrishenko, John Kutchmark, Jr., Ray Ripple; May 23 – Carl Bates, Janet Herczak; May 25 – George Lucas, Nicholas Rosko.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, 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 Cifruk, Mildred Terrek.

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

GREENTREE REHAB CENTER (1848 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220): Diane Bell.

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

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Mark states that blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin. Is this held true in the Catholic Faith? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: First we must define what is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The Catechism states: "Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven." There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss (CCC 1864). Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is to refuse God's mercy. It is a refusal to repent of sin. God does not bring anyone into his kingdom against his/her will. Human persons have the ability to reject God's mercy and refuse forgiveness of sins which leads to eternal separation from God.

Holy Spirit is to refuse God's mercy. It is a refusal to repent of sin. God does not bring anyone into his kingdom against his/her will. Human persons have the ability to reject God's mercy and refuse forgiveness of sins which leads to eternal separation from God.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 19 — May 25, 2024

(MR): In memory of Edward Zotyak (birthday 5/23)

offered by Wife: Florence

(NS): In memory of Anna Spontak (20th ann of passing 5/22)

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Son: Robert

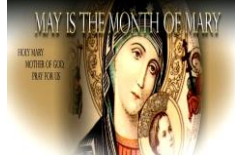
(NS) None AVAILABLE 2024



General Announcements

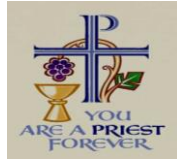
McKees Rocks & North Side

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!

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.



AN ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONOR PURCHASES FLOWERS

FOR THE BLESSED MOTHER ICON — Once again, an anonymous source has donated



beautiful and colorful flowers placed before the Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis for all four Fridays during the month. May is the month of the Holy Virgin Mary. We thank whoever you are, and we commend you and your intentions before the feet of the Holy Theotokos. A fresh bouquet will appear on May Fridays. Let us remember that each of us can place a spiritual bouquet before her on all Fridays this month by praying the Holy Rosary.

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 or email.



ANNUAL CLERGY DAYS APPROACHING — Both the Priests and Deacons of the Archeparchy will be gathering at the Cathedral on **June 3 & 4** for this annual meeting. Please keep them in prayer that the Holy Spirit may enlighten them on the presented agenda.

PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS FORTHCOMING — members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of our June meetings on **(NS) Sunday, June 9, 2024 following the Divine Liturgy in Church; and (MR) Monday, June 10, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Church office** The agenda will include our E.C.F. review of the school year, upcoming Parish July 21 Picnic, and etc. Members, please place this date on your agenda.

Happy Parish Feast Day Holy Ghost Church

PENTECOST SUNDAY — RUSALJA

Old & New Law Explanation of the Pentecost Celebration

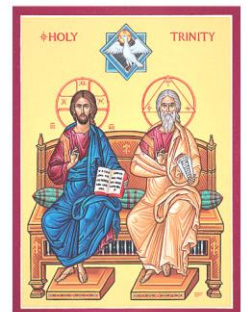
In the Old Testament, Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. In the new covenant of the Messiah, the New Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples of Christ.



The Divine Liturgy of Pentecost recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the Psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the Divine Liturgy. The Epistle and Gospel proclamation tells of the Spirit's coming to men. The Kondakion sings of the reversal of the Tower of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The Troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God's net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns "O Heavenly King" and "We have seen the True Light" are sung for the first time prior to Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to "come and dwell in us," and proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit." The church is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God's Divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the "Life-Creating Spirit." In Hebrew the word for Spirit, breath and wind is the same word, ruah. *The figure below the icon is called The Cosmos* who represents the world holding the good news that the Holy Apostles who were mandated to spread to all inhabitants of the earth.

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

The first day of the Pentecost Postfestive commemorates the unity of the Holy Trinity's role in our salvation. God the **FATHER** sent His Only-Begotten Son to save mankind; God the **SON** redeemed mankind by His death upon the Cross and rose from the dead; and God the **HOLY SPIRIT** sanctifies mankind pouring out His Gifts and Fruits upon all who approach Him in faith, reverence and devotion. Let us pause by participating in the Divine Liturgy rendering humble and heart-felt thanks for all that the Triune God has done and continues to do for us leading us to salvation!



One Week Remaining to fulfill Your Easter Duty!

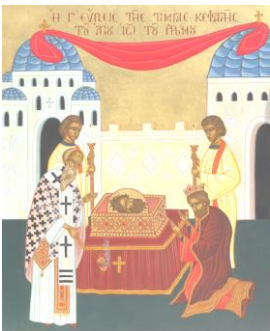
Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 19 Feast of the Decent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.
 Pentecost Sunday the Patronal Feast of both Parishes.
 Patronal Feast Luncheon & honoring our Graduates @ 1:00 p.m.
 May 20 ... Pentecost Monday — 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 Easter (Paschal) Duty.
 May 27 Memorial Day.
 Commencement of the Minor Petrine Fast (Church Slavonic: Petrovka).
 June 2 Ordination to Priesthood of Deacon Tapsak at MR-HGC @ 3:00 p.m. Signup sheet.
 June 9 (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the Divine Liturgy.
 June 10 (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
 June 14 Annual Flag Day Ceremony @ 6:45 p.m.

Saints of the Week — May 25

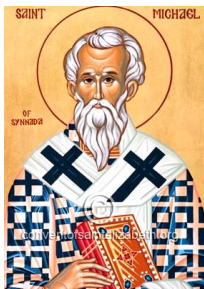
THE THIRD FINDING OF THE HEAD OF THE BAPTIST, JOHN

The Third Discovery of the Venerable Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John occurred in about the year 850 (see the account of the First and Second Discoveries on February 24). The head of St John the Forerunner was found in the city of Emesia during a time of unrest at Constantinople connected with the exile of St John Chrysostom (November 13). It was transferred to Komana during the Saracen raids (about 820-820) and it was hidden in the ground during a period of iconoclastic persecution. When the veneration of icons was restored, Patriarch Ignatius (847-857) saw in a vision the place where the head of St John the Forerunner was hidden. The patriarch communicated this to the emperor, who sent a delegation to Komana. There the head was found a third time around the year 850. Afterwards the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and here on May 25 it was placed in a church at the court. Part of the head is on Mt. Athos. The Third Discovery of the Head of John the Baptist is commemorated on May 25.



Venerable Michael, Confessor & Bishop of Synnada — May 23

From his youth Michael longed for the monastic life and was sent to a monastery on the coast of the Black Sea. At the monastery he engaged in spiritual struggles and was soon glorified by gifts from the Lord. Once, during a harvest, when the people were weakened by thirst, an empty metal vessel was filled with water by the prayer of the monks. Patriarch Tarasius consecrated Saint Michael as bishop of the city of Synnada. Through his holy life and wisdom, Saint Michael won the love of believers. He was present at the Seventh Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 787. When the Iconoclast heretic Leo the Armenian (813-820) assumed the throne, he began to expel hierarchs from their Sees, appointing heretics in their place. Saint Michael defended the True Faith, bravely opposing the heretics and denouncing their error. Leo the Armenian brought Saint Michael to trial, but not fearing torture he answered resolutely, "I venerate the holy icons of my Savior Jesus Christ and the All-Pure Virgin, His Mother, and all the saints, and it is to them I bow down. I shall not obey your decrees to remove icons from churches." Leo then banished Saint Michael to the city of Eudokiada, where the confessor died about the year 821.

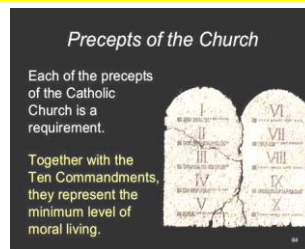


General Announcements

THE GREEN HOLY DAYS AND KNEELING PRAYERS — The Holy Feast of Pentecost was popularly called **RUSALJA** by the Ruthenian (Rusyn) people who were the founders and benefactors of our parishes. Prior to the missionary efforts of Saints Cyril & Methodius (9th century), the pagan Slavs embraced Rusalja (the god of new spring and budding nature) and held a festival during this time of the year. Decoration from various greens, and **LINDEN** (lipa) branches were predominantly used. Following their conversion to Christianity, the Church retain the idea of green decorations in Church and at the door entrance of their homes, seeing and celebrating in them the symbol of NEW LIFE that the Holy Spirit brought forth on Pentecost Sunday. The week of Pentecost was also referred to as the **GREEN HOLY DAYS** (želeni svjata). *Let us glorify the Holy Spirit, Who brings LIGHT & LIFE, by wearing something GREEN throughout the week, and at next weekend's Divine Liturgy of All Saints!*



NEXT WEEKEND — LAST DAY TO FULFILL EASTER DUTY — All Christian Faithful are **OBLIGED** to sacramentally **CONFESS** their **Mortal Sins** and to receive the **Divine Eucharist** during the **Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708)**. This is traditionally known as the **EASTER DUTY**. Voluntary neglect of this Church precept is a serious (mortal) sin. Not only does it prohibit one from receiving the Eucharist, but also makes one ineligible to stand as Godparent/Sponsor at the Holy Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism/Chrismation/Eucharist). **Please take care of this responsibility with Confession of Serious Sins & a Holy and Worthy Reception of Holy Communion A.S.A.P.**



OUR HOLY GHOST GRADUATES AND THEIR PLANS — Our Holy Ghost Graduates for 2023 are: **HIGH SCHOOL — (MR) NINA BELLA LECCI**, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) High School, on Sunday, June 2, 2024, who will be attending Duquesne University perusing a degree in Physical Therapy. She has also been a faithful member of the Parish St. Aquilina Ministry for several years; and **(MR) PAUL ANDREW RUBISH**, North Allegheny High School on Friday, May 31, 2024 to peruse secondary math education at Duquesne University. Also, he has been a faithful altar server for several years. May God grant Nina & Paul health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

