

Parish Offerings – Decent of the Most Holy Spirit — May 19, 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 (\$190) YP (\$2)	\$295.00
Pentecost (\$1,932) YP (\$3) Holy Days (\$205)	2,140.00
Votive Candles	139.51
	<hr/>
	\$2,471.51

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Pentecost (\$629.50) YP (\$1)	\$630.50
Holy Days	45.00
Votive Candles	125.00
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Church Attendance Last Week \$850.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (22)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (61); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)

Feast of Most Holy Trinity — (MR) Mon., 9:00 a.m. (5); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (4)



Valerian F. Szal

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

HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY WEEKEND. WE ARE ALWAYS HERE TO ASSIST YOU!



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

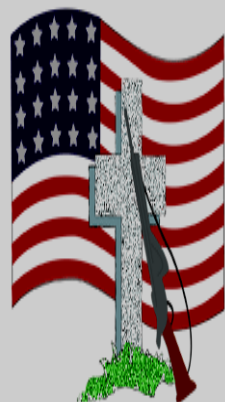


North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172370

Enjoy the long weekend!

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

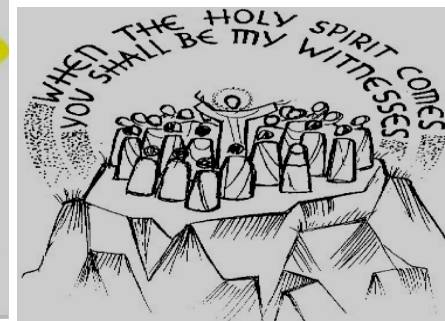
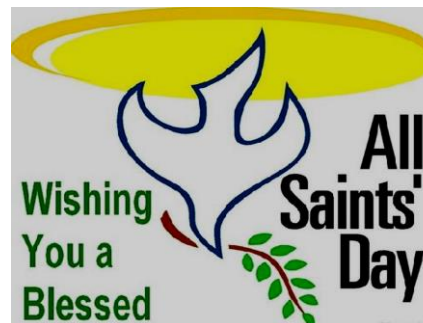
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

1st Sunday after Pentecost – Memorial Weekend

May 27, 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 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 Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Internet 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 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

With unity of faith let us celebrate a solemn feast of those who from the ages have found grace before God. Let us remember all the Saints: the Patriarchs, Prophets, and Apostles of Christ, the Martyrs, and Ascetics of all ages. They intercede unceasingly for the peace of the world and for the salvation of our souls! (Great Vespers of All Saints)

May 26, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number 21



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

1st Sunday after Pentecost — 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)



Commencement of the Petrine Fast — Civic Holiday — Memorial Day Observed

Mon, May 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + All Who Died in the Service of our Country
Tue, May 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowatch (birthday 5/26) Anne Meyers

Recommended SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for vocations

Wed, May 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving (47th ann of Ordination 5/22) Fr. Firko

Commemoration of the Body of Christ — T'ilo Christovo

Thrs., May 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dorothy Pelescak. (40th day of passing 5/15) Children

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

Fri, May 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + June Muska Husband: Mike

First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sat, June 1 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay (Ordination 5/31)Jeno & Nancy Lecci

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Third Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Kenneth M. Shanta Cousin: Janet Herczak
(1st ann. of passing 6/2)



3rd Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Jun 2 9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving Peggy & Chuck McCusker
(45th wedding ann. 5/5)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Farabaugh (birthday 6/4) Dgtr: Marianne

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

May 27 – Edward Wovchko; May 31 – LISA MARIE BODNARCHUK.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, 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, Frank Lipchick, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, JOHN NEWPORT, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, 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.

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 Twnship, PA 15108): Eliz. Poznak

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why is masturbation prohibited? God only prohibits us from what is not good for us, but it is proven to be essential for health. **A. Catholic Answers Apologist, Tom Nash:** God designed sexual expression to unite a man and woman in an intimately loving embrace that is total, faithful, free and fruitful—and thus in marriage... Indeed, the marital act is the beautiful God-given expression whereby a man and woman become "one flesh" in marriage for the first time (Gen. 2:24), and wherein they thereafter renew their marriage covenant... **Masturbation is a sin against the Sixth Commandment**, because it violates the God-inscribed unbreakable bond between the love-giving and life-giving aspects of the marital act (see CCC 2366-70). Instead of the intimate and mutual self-giving that is the hallmark of the marital act, masturbation—and whether within marriage or outside of marriage—is an act in which one turns selfishly inward. Masturbation attempts to dualistically divorce the physical behavior we choose to engage in from shaping our self-identity, as if the former had nothing to do with the latter. Masturbation fails to see that our bodies are not something we have but are essential to who we are and how we express ourselves as human persons, as body-soul composites (CCC 364-65). **So, masturbation is certainly not essential for our health.** To the contrary, especially regarding our moral well-being. In addition, God gives us his grace, particularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist, to overcome our sinful sexual desires, as well as provides the support of the Church in general and also natural remedies, including nocturnal emissions for men. (CCC= Catechism of the Catholic Church)

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 26 — Jun 1, 2024

(MR): In memory of Margaret "Peg" Krulac

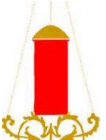
offered by Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko

(NS): In memory of Mary & Ronald Farabaugh

(MR) None available 2024

offered by Dgtr: Marianne

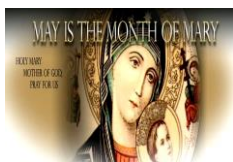
(NS) None available 2024



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

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!



North Side

MIROVANIJE-P L U S — At last Sunday's celebration of the *Descent of the All-Holy Spirit* at the distribution of Blessed Oil and Sacramental Bread (Mirovanije), a treat was given to all who had approached. Thanks to parishioner, Kathy Mullen, who, once again, made special home-made cookies in the form of a Dove (Holy Ghost), symbolizing the Life-Creating Power of God the Holy Spirit to everyone. We are grateful to Kathy for originating this wonderful gesture to make Pentecost Sunday, our



Patronal Feast, a special Remembrance Year. May God bless you and grant you many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL & FINANCIAL COUNCIL MEETING — Members are advised that our PAC/FAC Meeting is slated for **Sunday, June 9, 2024** following the Divine Liturgy. Please place this date on your calendar.

UTILITY ENVELOPE IN THE CONTRIBUTION BOX — With plenty of hot weather ahead of us this summer, we would like to use our air conditioning for Sunday and Holy Day Services for cooling comfort while praying to God. However, it is costly to run. Please consider at least an extra small sacrifice of monetary means to meet this expense in your ENERGY ENVELOPE. We receive very little for this allocation. We depend upon the regular Sunday and Holy Day offering to meet our other expenses. You know what it costs to pay your bills at home. Please



remember your church during this time

ANNUAL PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION — The History of the Peter's Pence Collection derives its name from an ancient custom. In ninth-century England. King Alfred the Great collected money, a "pence," from landowners as financial support for the Pope. Today, the Peter's Pence Collection supports the Pope's philanthropy by giving the Holy Father the means to provide emergency assistance to those in need because of natural disaster, war, oppression, and disease. In his address of March 20, 2013, Pope Francis spoke of our responsibility before the world and creation. *"There is much that we can do to benefit the poor, the needy and those who suffer, and to favor justice, promote reconciliation and build peace,"* he said. The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters.

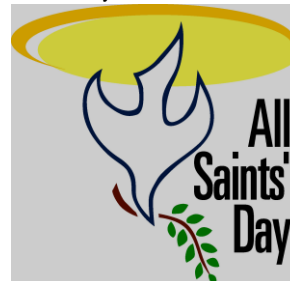


SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Everyone is Called to Sainthood

(Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, & 19:27-30)

Today, we celebrate the **SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**. Often, we think of Saints as those

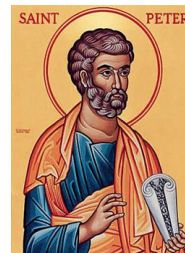


holy ones who have preceded us in physical death, and have won the crown of the heavenly kingdom. They are the ones whom we should imitate in life for guidance. Many of us think of these Saints as icons beautifully romanticized who always seem to have "a faraway look" in their eyes. Many of us get caught up in the halos and the visions. Great saints were real people with everyday problems. **Baptism calls all of us to sainthood**, not just the extraordinary people but everyday people just like you and me. Throughout history, saints have come from all economic classes and all walks of life. Often,

they have been faced with struggles for sanctity that lasted their entire lifetimes. We all have weaknesses, and our knowledge of those weaknesses is vital if we are ever to achieve holiness. Knowing that we're not perfect helps us to love others who aren't perfect. It gives an important sense of humility and the power not to judge. Christianity elevates our human nature by combining it with the supernatural. This life of grace enables us to respond lovingly to the trials and irritations of everyday living. Jesus put it this way, *"A good tree does not produce decayed fruit any more than a decayed tree produces good fruit. Each tree is known by its yield"* (Luke 6:43-44). Now what is Jesus talking about when He says that we are to "produce good fruit"? What is this "yield" by which we are to be known? He is saying that we will bear signs of God's love if only we put our trust in Him. A heroic acceptance of suffering? Yes. Patience with an irritating person? Yes. Kindness to those that hurt us? Yes, that too. This is why it is so important for us to seek and embrace God's will for us. If you are bearing good fruit, your neighbors will be able to read the Gospel in your life, even if they've never read Scripture or think little of religion or of God. They will know that there is something about you that is different, even if they do not know that "something" is God. Saints are ordinary people like you and me. They knew God's will and they pursued that will despite their weakness and their humanness.

PETRINE FAST Begins Tomorrow

The **Petrine Fast (Petrovna – Ruthenian (Rusyn) Language)** is one that was actually engaged in by the disciples of Christ following the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Having rejoiced throughout the fifty days following Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to carry Christ's message to the far corners of the world. As part of their preparation, they began a fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them in their missionary undertakings. It is this fast that we ourselves participate in when we observe the minor Penitential Season of the Petrine Fast. But we do this not only because we honor the Apostles and their sacrifice. We do this by way of preparing ourselves to be sent as missionaries into our world to reflect and radiate Christ to those around us. **As we begin the Petrine Fast (named after the Apostle Peter), let us make a serious effort to abstain from meat or do an equivalent penance not only on the required Fridays until June 29, but also on the recommended Wednesdays for the intention of an increase of vocations to the priesthood & religious life.**

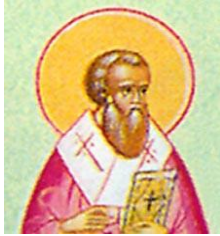


Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

THE HOLY APOSTLE HERMAS OF THE 70 — May 31



The Holy Apostle Hermas was a bishop in Philippopolis, Thrace. He was a Greek, but he spent some time in Rome. The holy Apostle Paul greets him in the Epistle to the Romans (Rom 16:14). The Apostle Hermas endured much grief from the pagans for preaching the Gospel, but he died in peace. According to Tradition, Saint Hermas is the author of THE SHEPHERD, an instructive book based on revelations from angels.

THE HOLY MARTYR HERMIAS AT COMANA — May 31

Holy Martyr Hermias suffered for Christ in the city of Comana during the persecution under the emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161). The governor Sebastian, who was in Cappadocia to arrest Christians, urged the saint to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, promising him honors and mercy from the emperor. The old soldier bravely confessed his faith in Christ. After long exhortation, the governor gave orders to torture the saint. They beat him on the face so that the skin peeled from his face, and they threw him into a red-hot oven. When the oven was opened after three days, the martyr Hermias emerged from it unharmed. The governor Sebastian ordered the sorcerer Marus to poison



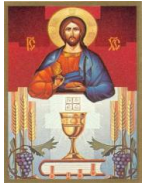
Saint Hermias with a potion. The poisonous drink did the saint no harm. A second goblet with even stronger poison also failed to kill the saint. The sorcerer believed in Christ the Savior, and was immediately beheaded. Saint Marus was baptized in his own blood, and received a martyr's crown. Saint Hermias was subjected to even more terrible tortures. They raked his body with sharp instruments, threw him in boiling oil, and gouged out his eyes, but he gave thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ. Then they suspended the martyr head downward. For three days he hung in this position. People sent by the governor to verify his death found him alive. Struck by the miracle, they were blinded with fright and began to call out to the saint to help them. The holy martyr ordered the blind to approach him, and healed them in the Name of Jesus Christ. In anger the governor ordered the skin flayed from the saint's body, but he remained alive. Then the crazed Sebastian beheaded him with his own sword. Christians secretly buried the body of the martyr Hermias, whose relics bestowed numerous healings.

General Announcements

SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL PENTECOST DINNER — What a beautiful Pentecost Dinner we had last Sunday afternoon! Both parishes participated in this our Patronal Feast Day glorifying God the Holy Spirit! Special thanks are extended to Norma Kacsur and Regina Mell, Elaine Kurtanich, Karen Stebbins, Christine Barnash, and Dana Leasure who had served this event along with the assistance of several others who made this Dinner possible! Many hours of preparation were spent in book-keeping, cleaning and setting up our gym area to make the day successful. Our pastor extends his most heartfelt thanks!!! Also, once again, a special Congratulations to our High School Graduates, Nina B. Lecci & Paul A. Rubish.



THE BODY OF CHRIST COMMEMORATION — T'ILO CHRISTOVO — This **Thursday, May 30, 2024** our Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church marks a special traditional commemoration of the Holy Eucharist. It falls each year on the Thursday following All Saints Sunday. Join us in expressing gratitude to the Lord Jesus Christ and His True Presence — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Most Holy Eucharist on this special day at the morning Divine Liturgy!



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 today!



SAVE THE DATE: PARISH PICNIC SLATED FOR JULY— Although details will follow in a later edition of the SOT, you are asked to set aside, **Sunday, July 21** for our parish picnic. It will be held once again in the Robinson Township Picnic Grove off Cleaver Road. Please plan to join us as a member of our parish family.



DEACON NATE TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD NEXT SUNDAY — Deacon Nathaniel J. Tapsak will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood here at MR-HGC next Sunday, **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 *today, May 26, 2024*.

