

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday after Pentecost — June 16, 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 (\$1,525) YP (\$7) | \$1,532.00 |
| Pentecost | 20.00 |
| Votive Candles | 174.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1,726.00 |

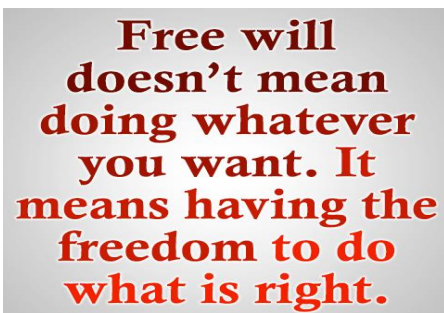
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

| | |
|---|----------|
| Regular Offering (\$612) YP (\$1) | \$613.00 |
| Improvement | 25.00 |
| Votive Candles | 67.50 |
| | <hr/> |

Church Attendance Last Week \$705.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (30)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (20)





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

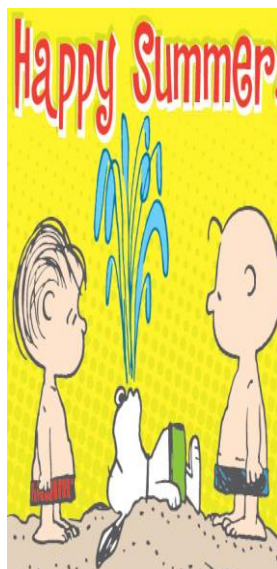


Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

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 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

4th & Final Week of the Petrine Fast — June 23, 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 Father David A. Bosnich

Assistant Pastor (NS), Assigned to Chancery

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: Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.

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 will.

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).

June 23, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number 25



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

| Date | Time | Intention | Requested By |
|---|------|--|--------------|
|  5th Sunday after Pentecost | | | |
| | | 4th Sunday of the Petrine Fast | |

SUN, Jun 23 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm
11:00 a.m. (NS) + George Hudanick, Sr. (3rd ann. of passing. 6/8) Wife: + Dolores & Family

Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Precursor, & Baptist of the Lord, John — Solemn Holy Day

Mon, Jun 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Evelyn (Sosnak) Vento (birthday) Anonymous

Tue, Jun 25 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Elsie Eberle (birthday 6/24) Bernadette Gunkel

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

Wed, Jun 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich. Mildred Terrek

Thrs, Jun 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(26th ann of passing 6/29)

Final Day of the Petrine Fast

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

Fri, Jun 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Nevaldo Mell (birthday 6/30) Dgtr: Regina

Vigil Divine Liturgy of the Feasts of Saints Peter & Paul

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay Marianne Farabaugh

Feast of the Holy Prime Apostles Peter and Paul

Holy Day of Obligation — Mirovanije

SAT, JUN 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) For The Parishioners of Both Parishes

6th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Jun 30 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Sendro (10th ann of pass. 7/1) Wife: Janet & Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Gerard Slagle (birthday 7/9) Wife: Alice & Family

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

Jun 24 – BRADLEY SPONTAK; **Jun 26** – Patricia Porter; **Jun 29** – Patricia Kovacs.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, 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, 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 Cifrutlak, 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
ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North St., PGH, PA 15212) MARLENE PFEIFFER

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it okay to date divorced men? I'm widowed and haven't begun dating yet. I'm in my mid-40s, and so most "single" men my age are divorced. I know, understand, and believe the Church's teaching on the indissolubility of marriage, and that leads me to question whether it would be moral to date a man who is divorced (unless his marriage was declared null by the Church). **A. Catholic apologist, Michelle Arnold:** If a divorced person does not have an annulment for his previous marriage, the Church presumes him to be married. Because you must presume him to be married unless and until he obtains an annulment, you should not pursue any kind of romantic relationship with those who are divorced and without annulments from the Church.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

June 23 — June 29, 2024

(MR): **In memory of The Vrabel Family**

offered by Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

(NS): **In memory of Mary Agnes Kress**

(MR) None available 2024

offered by Son: Bill & Kathe Kress

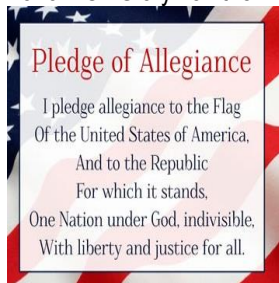
(NS) None available 2024



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

FLAG DAY CELEBRATION LAST WEEK — Approximately. 6 participants attended last Thursday's fraternal event sponsored by both Holy Ghost Churches to celebrate and honor 'Ol Glory for the 15th consecutive time this



past week on Flag Day, June 14. Due to road construction of the McKees Rocks Bridge, traffic and detours weren't the best and affected the attendance. Patriots joined other fraternal



organization throughout the Country to pledge Allegiance to the Flag which commenced in 1980. The Ceremony culminated at 7:00 p.m. when all in attendance joined other U.S. Fraternal Organizations for the 44th Annual Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Gratitude is extended to all who attended this Annual Event, and those who sacrificed their time in making it a success.

SCHEDULE OF ALTAR SERVER FAITH & FUN DAY — The 2024 Faith & Fun Day for Archdiocesan Altar Servers will be on **Monday, July 8, 2024**. The day will begin at 9:30 am at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, McKees Rocks, PA with the Divine Liturgy and then at 10:30 a.m. off to PNC Park to eat at the Pirates game. The afternoon Pirates vs. the New York Mets will be featured. Following the game we will travel to the Pittsburgh National Aviary, and then at 5:00 p.m. depart for Dave & Busters, North Hills for dinner and game play. We will return at 7:30 p.m. to Holy Ghost Church to head back home. Please inform Fr. Firko if you plan to attend. Forms are needed to be filled A.S.A.P. Preparations determine how many altar servers will be attending.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING CHURCH PICNIC — Following next week's 9:00 a.m. Sunday Divine Liturgy, we are calling on all volunteers to meet in the Church basement to discuss the details of this July dual annual picnic. Please assist us as we discuss the details. Thank you!

North Side

No Particular Announcements currently



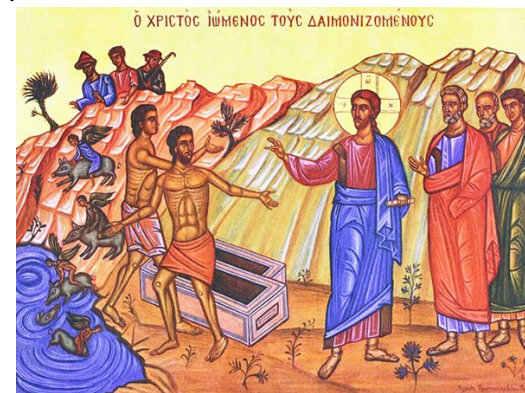
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS WEEK — This coming Friday evening and Saturday morning, we will be celebrating the Feasts of Saints Peter & Paul. Please refer to the Liturgical page for the times and places. Please note that we are **REQUIRED** to attend the Divine Liturgy at this time. It is truly a day of grace for God's blessings!

As we come to the end of this penitential journey through the Petrine Fast (June 28), let us offer our intention of prayer for an increase of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life and for all priests and monastics.

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Demons in today's Holy Gospel — Read Matthew 8:28-9:1

St. John Chrysostom says about this account, *"Look at what the demons did when they were cast out of the men."* They entered the swine, and caused the swine to run violently down to their own death. St. John says that is what the demons want to do to each one of us. They want to cause us to run violently down to our death. He says, *"Do not be deceived. You have many foes. Just because you cannot see them with your natural eyes does not mean they are not there. Just because you are not aware of them every second of every day does not mean they do not follow you around, because they do. They huddle around you."* What they seek is to enter you so that they may cause you to rush violently to your own death. This is the nature of our spiritual struggle. In 1 Peter 5:8, St. Peter says that our adversary the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." If we are going to fight the spiritual war, if we are going to live out this Christian life, then we must be aware every second of every day that the demons are there, and that they are looking for just one opening, just one second when we are not paying attention, one look that is not carefully guarded, one movement of anger, jealousy, or envy in our heart. The demons look for opportunities to destroy us. The demons never take a day off. But very often those thoughts are suggestions of the evil one. Satan and the demons are very skillful at suggesting thoughts to us and then leaving so quickly that we don't see that it was the demons that placed those thoughts in our head. They are very skillful at lining up all the facts to prove the thought. We beat Satan and the demons with the name of Jesus. It's a wonderful image of Satan and the demons in this Gospel passage, where the demons flex their muscles and scream at Jesus, "What have we to do with You?" The name of Jesus is more powerful than any demon. The name of Jesus strikes fear into the heart of Satan and all his minions. That is why the name of Jesus is to be on our lips with every breath. If we center our thoughts on the name of Jesus, then Satan will not get us with any other thoughts. That is why the Fathers say that we descend with our mind into our heart, and we guard our mind with our heart, because the name of Jesus is our protection: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." When Jesus says, "Go," the demons flee.



To the vegetarian and vegan who insist on 'animal rights', this story may appear abhorrent and distasteful - and so it should be - but the underlying point of the destruction of the swine is not that animals are not important but that humans are more important.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 24 Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.; (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
 June 28 **Divine Liturgy of SS. Peter & Paul — (NS) 6:00 p.m.**
 June 29 **Holy Day of Obligation: Feast SS. Peter & Paul (MR) 9:00 a.m.**
 July 8 Archbishopial Altar Server Faith & Fun Days Pirates vs. Mets @ 12:35 p.m.
 July 19 HGC-NS @ 6:00 pm - Anticipated Feast of the Holy O.T Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles.
 July 20 ... HGC-MR @ 9:00 am - Feast of the Holy O.T. Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles
 July 21 Annual Church Picnic at Clever Park, Robinson from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Signup.

Solemn Holy Day of the Week Nativity of St. John the Baptist — June 24



Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel appeared to Zachariah the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. Before he announced the miraculous conception to the unwed virgin [Mary], the archangel announced the miraculous conception to the childless old woman [Elizabeth]. Zachariah did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God and this is why his tongue was tied with dumbness and remained as such until eight days after the birth of John. On that day, the relatives of Zachariah and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and for the sake of giving him a name. When they asked the father, what name he wishes to give to his son and being dumb, he wrote on a tablet: "John." At that moment his tongue became loosed and he began to speak. The home of Zachariah was on the heights between Bethlehem and Hebron.

The news of the appearance of the angel of God

to Zachariah was spread throughout all of Israel, as well as of his dumbness and the loosening of his tongue at the moment when he wrote the name "John." The news concerning this even reached Herod. Therefore, when Herod sent soldiers to slay the children throughout Bethlehem, he directed men to the hilly dwelling place of the family of Zachariah to kill John also. However, Elizabeth promptly hid the child. Enraged, King Herod sent his executioners to Zachariah in the Temple to slay him (for it happened that it was Zachariah's turn again to serve in the Temple of Jerusalem). Zachariah was slain between the court and the temple and his blood coagulated and petrified on the stone pavers and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave where she died soon after. The young child John remained in the wilderness alone under the care of God and God's angels.

General Announcements

KENNYWOOD PARK: BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY — Special discounted tickets are now available online at gcuusa.com. Ticket prices \$27.00 (ages 4+); free for ages 3 and under. All tickets bought at this discounted rate must be used on July 25, 2024. All tickets include entry into the Park and All-Day Ride. Byzantine Catholic Family Day is slated for **Thursday, July 25, 2024**. *Deadline for these discounted tickets is JULY 10.* Tickets are also available for the Luncheon Buffet at a cost of \$25.00 (ages 11+); Youth Luncheon \$20.00 (ages 3-10); Come join in the fun and set the day aside.



GCU LODGE 390 LENDS A HELPING HAND TO FISHER HOUSE — Our local GCU Lodge is continuing to collect items to help Pittsburgh's VA Fisher House. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is a



10-bedroom "home away from home" and provides a place for visiting families to stay, free of charge, while their loved ones receive inpatient medical care at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is professionally furnished and features a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room with a library, and toys for children. They are requesting assistance in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Boxes will be placed at the side vestibule and narthex

areas of both parishes for the **collection that will extend to August 5**. Needed items are listed on a stationery sheet near these boxes. Let's help

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 Clever Road. Please plan to join us as a member of our parish family.



ACT & SUPPORT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COMMENCES THIS WEEK — DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY — Catholic eparchies and dioceses across the Commonwealth are marking Religious Freedom Week which begins **June 22 and continues through June 29**: Let us stand up and learn,



defend, proclaim the Truth of our Faith and by offering this prayer for Religious Freedom: ***O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith during the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome — for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us — this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen."***