

**Parish Offerings – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — June 23, 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 (\$2,405) YP (\$6)	\$2,411.00
Holy Days (\$80) Peter's Pence (\$315)	395.00
Votive Candles	149.25
	<hr/>
	\$2,955.25

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$717) YP (\$1)	\$718.00
Holy Days (\$20) Peter's Pence (\$35) Utilities (\$85)	140.00
Votive Candles	52.50

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$910.50

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (31)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (42); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)

*Nativity of St. John the Baptist* — Mon (MR) 9:00 a.m. (5); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (9)



**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 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**June 30, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)**

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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 30, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number 26



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

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

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**SUN, Jun 30** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Sendro (10<sup>th</sup> ann of pass. 7/1) Wife: Janet & Family  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Gerard Slagle (birthday 7/9) Wife: Alice & Family

Mon, Jul 1 8:00 p.m. (MR) + Brian Stempkowski (birthday 6/30) Mom: Bea

Tue, Jul 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + Andrew Skalko Catechism Teachers of Fr. Firko  
+ Rose Marie Boris

Wed, Jul 3  8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Sosak MaryEllen & John Oslick  
(53<sup>rd</sup> ann of passing 7/4)

### 248<sup>th</sup> National Independence Day

Thrs, Jul 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health, Welfare & Forgiveness of Sins  
of our Country

**Venerable Athanasius of Mt. Athos — First Friday of the Month**

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice):in**  
**reparation for sins committed in our Country**

Fri, Jul 5  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Kenneth M. Shanta Cousin: Janet Herczak

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

Sat, Jul 6 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay (birthday 7/7) Jenö & Nancy Lecci

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**Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Helen + Carl Wincalov Bilak & Tomchak Families

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Independence Weekend

**SUN, Jul 7** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Glee Hart Family  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Daniel J. Galida (birthday 7/5) Sister: Kathy L. Mullen

## 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 30** – Olivia Leasure, Nicholas Stilwell; **Jul 1** – PAUL MITRO.

### 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, 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

**HERITAGE VALLEY SEWICKLEY** (720 Blackburn Rd, Sewickley, PA 15143): Mike Muska.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** How can I be less hypocritical? I know what Jesus says and what I believe but I often go against these beliefs. **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** So, does almost everyone in the world. SS. Peter & Paul and every saint in history (with the exception of Mary), struggle with this very problem (Rom 7:15-25). Here are some practical tips that will help you in this struggle: (1) Knowledge is power. If you know your faith, you will know more about how to fight the devil and the temptation to sin (1Peter 5:8-9; CCC 409); (2) Read the lives of the saints. These men and women have been where you are now, and their heroic example will inspire you (Phil 4:9); (3) Live a sacramental life. Attend the Divine Liturgy more than just on Sunday & Holy Days, pray the rosary, and go to Confession frequently, especially if you have sinned seriously (Heb 10:25; 1 Thess 5:17; CCC 1127, 1129). And (4) In prayer ask Jesus for guidance (Mt 7:7)



### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**June 30 — July 6, 2024**

(MR): **In memory of Infant Brian Stempkowski** (birthday 6/30)

offered by Mom: Bea

(NS): **In memory of Elizabeth Seman**

(MR) None available 2024

offered by Dgtr: Velma

(NS) None available 2024





# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**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 a.m. 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.



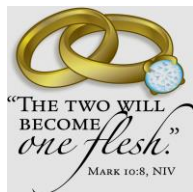
**VOLUNTEERS STILL BEING CONSCRIPTED FOR UPCOMING CHURCH PICNIC** — Following last week's 9:00 a.m. Sunday Divine Liturgy, we asked for volunteers to meet in the Church basement to discuss the details of this July 21 dual annual picnic. We need a few others to make this event a very special parish family gathering. Please phone Elaine Kurtanich if you are able to assist (412) 370-9092.

## North Side

### *No Particular Announcements currently*

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**REGISTER FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE** — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 15, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. This celebration has been extended on a new format. It will take place on **Sunday, September 15, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Elias Church, Munhall**. If you are observing one of the above milestones, *please contact the Church office if you plan or DO NOT plan to attend!* All specially marked anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. *The final day of registration is Sunday, July 14.*



### Did You Know this about the Declaration of Independence?

**John Hancock**, the President of the Continental Congress at the time, was the first and only person to sign the Declaration on July 4, 1776 (he signed it in the presence of just one man, Charles Thomson, the secretary of Congress). According to legend, the founding father signed his name bigger than everyone else's because he wanted to make sure "fat old King George" could read it without his spectacles. But the truth is that Hancock had a large blank space and didn't realize the other men would write their names smaller. Today, the term "John Hancock" has become synonymous with a person's signature.



## 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Trust that God will do the best** — Read Matthew 9: 1-8

Those who brought the paralytic to Jesus did so because they believed in Him. It was faith in Jesus that inspired them to come to Him. It was also love for their paralyzed friend that emboldened them to make their way through the crowd and



bring him to Jesus. The carrying of the paralytic to Christ by his friends is an image of the Church. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to carry our needy brethren to the Lord, through intercession and charity. St Paul says that we are to bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). At the same time, we have to accept the fact that we often need others to carry *us*, since we too are afflicted and weak and needy, in constant need of forgiveness and healing. This is how the Lord wants his love to flow within the Church: when we happen to be strong, we are to carry

others; when we are weak, others are to carry us. Jesus recognized both their faith in Him and their love for their paralyzed friend, yet what He first granted was not what they had originally come to Him for. They wanted physical healing, but Jesus first granted forgiveness of sins. When we encounter Jesus, we have to be prepared to let go of our presuppositions and expectations. He may manifest Himself in a way that runs counter to the image of Him we may have built up in our own thoughts and prayers. He may do things in our lives, in our souls, that we do not expect, and perhaps that we do not even *like*. He may upset our comfortable piety with a divine wake-up call that will leave us reeling and realizing that we didn't know it all after all, but were blind and ignorant until the light of Christ showed us both our sins and his glory. The paralytic wanted to walk, but Jesus took away his sins. Yet even if the paralytic was initially disappointed, he must have taken courage as Jesus told him to, and put his trust in the Lord. For Jesus did in fact give the man what he wanted, but only after giving him what *He* wanted to give, which was the most important thing. The lesson: Trust that God will do what is best!

**Tip of the day:** Jesus does not wait to see the faith of the ignorant ... Yet he does not refuse to *help* the faith of another, so that by grace alone he confers whatever is proper of the divine will (Chrysologus). In other words, bring others to prayer and place them at the feet of Christ!

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 8 ..... Archieparchial 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.

## Saint of the Week

### THE HOLY MARTYR HYACINTH — July 3

Saint Hyacinth was a native of Caesarea in Cappadocia, was raised in a Christian family. The emperor Trajan made the boy his



chamberlain, unaware that he was a secret Christian. One day, while the emperor and his entourage were offering sacrifice to idols, the young Hyacinth remained at the palace, shut himself up in a small room, and prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the servants overheard him praying and denounced him to the emperor. He said that although Hyacinth was entrusted with an imperial position, he did not honor the Roman gods, and was secretly praying to Christ. Hyacinth was brought to trial before Trajan, who tried to persuade him to deny Christ and sacrifice to the deaf and dumb idols, but the holy martyr remained steadfast and declared

that he was a Christian. He was whipped and thrown into prison, where the only food given to him was what had already been offered to the idols. They hoped that he would be overcome with hunger and thirst and eat it. St Hyacinth did not eat the food, and he died after thirty-eight days. When they came to torture him again, they found his dead body. The jailer saw two angels in the cell. One covered the saint's body with his own garment, and the other placed a crown of glory on his head. The twelve-year-old Hyacinth suffered for Christ in the year 108 in the city of Rome. Later, the saint's relics were transferred to Caesarea. Our Byzantine Catholic Nuns of St. Claire in North Royalton, OH, now have his relics enshrined.

# General Announcements

## HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK

This past Friday-Saturday morning, June 28-29 was the **Feast of Preeminent Apostles Saints Peter and Paul**. It is one of five **Holy Day of Obligations of the Byzantine Rite**. 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); "(the faithful) 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 participation renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.*



**KENNYWOOD PARK: BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY** — Special discounted tickets are now available online at [gcuusa.com](http://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 these Veterans and their families!

**SAVE THE DATE: PARISH PICNIC SLATED FOR JULY—** You are asked to set aside, **Sunday, July 21** from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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. This will be a picnic basket gathering. However, both Churches will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers. Although it is not required, we will welcome any side dishes or favorites to be shared with those in attendance.

