

Parish Offerings – 11th Sunday after Pentecost — August 4, 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 (\$2,981) YP (\$14)	\$2,995.00
Holy Days	115.00
Votive Candles	252.50
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	\$3,362.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$490) YP (\$1)	\$491.00
Holy Day (\$25) Improvements (\$55)	80.00
Votive Candles	66.00
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Church Attendance Last Week \$637.00

Sat (MR), 4:p.m. (26)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)

Transfiguration Feast — Aug. 6 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (10)



Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
Phone: (412) 331-9713

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



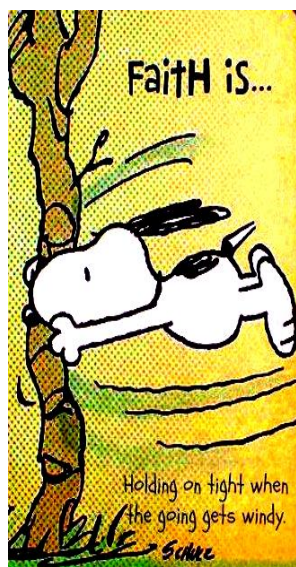
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

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 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Postfestive of Transfiguration — August 11, 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).

August 11, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number 32



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

12th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Aug 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia + John Borsh Dgtr: Audry Hart
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Aug 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Beverly + Michael Harsh Helenea & Ed Conner

Lat Day of the of the Transfiguration Feast

Tues, Aug 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Carmella Mell (14th ann of passing) Dgtr: Regina

Prefestive of the Feast of the Domition of the Holy Theotokos – Recommended Abstin.

Wed, Aug 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy (birthday) Son: Kurt

Great Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition — Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 p.m. (MR) + Michelle J. (Terrek) Chiavetta (4th ann of pass. 8/11) Mom: Mildred & Family

Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

Holy Day of Obligation — Solemn Blessing Flowers and Herbs — Mirovanije

THRS, AUG 15 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary + Michael Korim (ann of passing) Nephew: Fr. Firko

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for the return of our family, relatives and friends back to God and the Church.

Fri, Aug. 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dan Pikras Jeanine Hommis
(1st ann of passing 8/15) Wendy Williams

Sat, Aug. 17 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael J. Bebech (memorial) Fr. Firko

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Thiteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Kenneth M. Shanta Mike, Leyte, Mike & Alex Bilak

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Dormition Feast — Blessing of Students & Teachers

SUN, Aug 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann A. Kohan (3rd ann of pass 8/20) Sister: Dolores & Ted Babin

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

Aug 12 – Linda Reiger; Aug 16 – Janet Sendro; Aug 18 – Peter Zubritzky;
Aug 19 – Anna Colbert.

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 Kovach, Sr.; Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, 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.
THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrutlak, Mildred Terrek.

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

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

MONROEVILLE REHAB CENTER (4142 Monroeville Blvd. Monroeville, PA 15146): Nancy Wurthier.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Does the Catholic Church allow birth control? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** One of the most awesome gifts God gave us is the ability to generate new life made in His image. Human beings (one male & one female) are co-creators with God in this process. Contraception deliberately thwarts this God-given gift by treating conception as an evil to be avoided. The sin of contraception may be committed by use of contraception pills, condoms, spermicides, physical or chemical “barriers,” sterilization, and other means. None of these are morally acceptable forms of family planning. On the other hand, there are morally acceptable means of “regulating births.” Natural Family Planning (NFP) uses the signs of a woman’s natural monthly cycle to determine fertility. God deigned the marital act with two inherent meanings. These meanings are “written into” the act itself. They are the “unitive” or person-uniting meaning (Gn. 2:24) and the “procreative” or person-begetting meaning (Gn. 1:28). These two meanings are interrelated and are intended by God to be present in every act of copulation.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 11 — August 17, 2024

(MR): **In memory of Beverly & Michael Harsh**

offered by Family

(NS): **In memory of Fr. Ronald Larko** (birthday 8/16)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Velma Seman

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2024

General Announcements

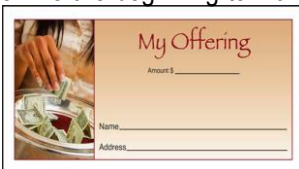
McKees Rocks & North Side

REPEAT: SUMMER IS NOT A TIME TO VACATION FROM WORSHIPPING GOD —



Now that Summer is here many will be going on vacation. Please remember to keep the worship of God in your plans. The first Precept of the Church is to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. *This does not exclude vacation time!* The place to worship God is at the Divine Liturgy. He is so kind and merciful, sustaining and gifting us in all that we have and need. Voluntarily absenting oneself without serious reason makes us guilty of mortal sin, and unable to approach Holy Communion until the sinful neglect is confessed in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. If you know that where you are traveling there is no Catholic Church, please inform Fr. Firko so that a possible dispensation may be given. Don't forget, Fridays are days of Simple Abstinence (no Meat) or to offer an Equivalent Penance even when you are on vacation.

REPEAT: DO YOU HAVE CHURCH CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES — Soon the 2025 Church envelopes will be arriving here at the office. We are beginning to make the switch from this year to the next. If you have not used envelopes within the past two years, your name is probably not in the church's format. Church envelopes are a necessary part of the administrative workings of the parish. **To be considered an active contributing member of the parish**, which helps us meet our fiduciary responsibilities, we very much need your participation. Also, participation in capital donations, regular attendance is required to stand as a sponsor for Baptisms, and Chrismations, First Communions, Weddings, and other activities. You are encouraged to be enrolled in this aspect of the church. If you are currently without envelopes, and would like to become a contributing and active member with 2024 & 2025 envelopes, **please call the Church office before the August 31, 2024 deadline.** Our Church appreciates you and wishes to serve you as a fully active member. Adult envelopes begin with all who have graduated high school.



BLSESSED GRAPES TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT MIROVANIJE — Following All Divine Liturgies this weekend, grapes that were blessed at this week's Transfiguration Solemn Holy Day will be distributed at the Mirovanije. What a wonderful tradition our Byzantine Catholic Church has each and every single year! This fruit have become sacramentals for our spiritual nourishment! Please take some and share them with others! **We extend gratitude those to Velma, Seaman who donated them and Theresa Hrishenko & Regina Mell who packed them in small plastic bakes. Also, we wish to thank Jim Kurtanich who donated a pint of ice cream to everyone at our Church Picnic weeks ago. It was Ice Cream Day!! May God grant them many happy and blessed years!**



12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus offers the same challenge today As He offered the Rich Man in today's Gospel (Matthew 19: 16-26)

The great truth of this story lies in the way it illumines the meaning of eternal life. Eternal life is life such as God himself lives. The word for eternal is *aionios*, which

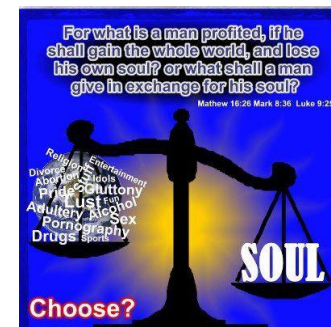


does not mean lasting or ever; it means such as befits God, or such as belongs to God, or such as is characteristic of God. The great characteristic of God is that He so loved and He gave. Therefore, the essence of eternal life is not a carefully calculated keeping of the commandments and the rules and the regulations; **eternal life is based on an attitude of loving and sacrificial generosity to our fellow-men.**

If we would find eternal life, if we would find happiness, joy, satisfaction, peace of mind and serenity of heart, it shall not be by piling up a credit balance with God through keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations; it shall be through reproducing God's attitude of love and care to our fellow-men. To follow Christ and in grace and generosity to serve the men for whom Christ died are one and the same thing. In the end the young man turned away in great distress. He refused the challenge, because he had great possessions. His tragedy was that he loved things more than he loved people; and he loved himself more than he loved others. Any man who puts things before people and self before others, must turn his back on Jesus Christ.

How do you Determine if you receive Holy Communion Worthily or not?

By examining your conscience, in relationship to the Ten Commandments and the 6 Precepts of the Church, you are able to determine whether you are in the state of grace. If you have committed any mortal sins that have not been confessed, you ARE NOT in the state of grace (1 Cor 11:28). If you are in the state of grace, you can and should receive the Eucharist. If you are not, you should not receive it. To do so would be the sin of sacrilege (1 Cor 11:27; CCC 1385). As you grow in the spiritual life, you will generally find it is easier to determine whether you have committed any mortal sins (1 Jn 3:19-24, 4:13). In the meantime, learn and abide by the moral teachings of our Faith. and the virtues and vices that draw us near or apart from God's Plan for us.



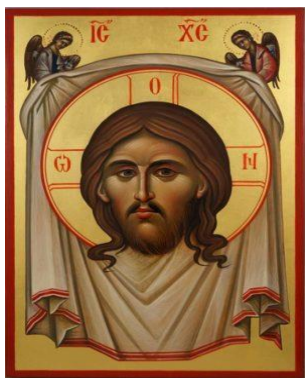
Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 14 **Holy Day of Obligation** — Feast of the Dormition — Blessing of Herbs & Flowers — (MR) 7:00 pm
 August 15 Feast of the Dormition — Blessing of Herbs & Flowers — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 August 29 Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 September 1 Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
 September Aug 31 – Sept 2 90th Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina.
 September 2 Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday. Morning Divine Liturgy (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 September 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos.
 September 15 Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm

Commemoration of the Week

The Transposition of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople – Aug 16

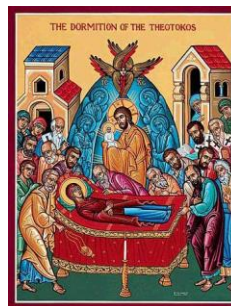
During the time of the earthly ministry of the Savior, Abgar, ruler in the Syrian city of Edessa, was afflicted with leprosy. Reports of the great miracles performed by the Lord extended throughout Syria (Matt. 4:24) and as far as Arabia at this time. Although not having seen the Lord, Abgar believed in him and wrote a letter requesting Christ to come and heal him. Abgar sent his court painter, Ananias, with this letter to Palestine telling him to paint an image of the Divine Teacher. Ananias was not able to go to near Christ because of the great many people listening to his preaching. He attempted to produce an image of the Lord Jesus Christ from afar, but could not. The Lord called Ananias and promised to send his disciple in order to heal Abgar from the leprosy and instruct him in salvation. Then the Lord called for water and a towel. He wiped His face with the towel, and on it was His Divine Image. The Savior sent the towel and a letter to Edessa back with Ananias. With thanksgiving Abgar received the sacred objects and started healing. He continued healing until the arrival of the disciple Thaddeus, Apostle of the 70.



The Apostle preached the Gospel and baptized the Abgar and all living in Edessa. Having written on the Image Not-Made-By-Hands the words, Christ-God, everyone trusting in Thee will not be put to shame, Abgar adorned it and placing it over gates of the city. For many years it was venerated by those who passed through the gates. Edessa, a great-grandson of Abgar, fell into idolatry and was determined to remove the image. In a vision, the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to conceal the image. The bishop and his clergy at night, blocked up the niche with clay tablets and bricks inclosing with it a lit lampada. Many years passed by and the inhabitants forgot about the Holy Object. In the year 545, the Persian King Chroses I, besieged Edessa, and all seemed hopeless. But Bishop Evlavios was commanded by a vision of the Theotokos to get from the enclosed niche the image with which to save the city from the adversaries. Dismantling the niche, the Bishop found the Holy Image; before it burned the lampada and on the clay tablets, with which the niche had been enclosed, was a similar image. After preceding with the Cross and the Image Not-Made-By-Hands around the walls of the city, the Persian army miraculously departed. In 630, Edessa was seized by Arabs; but they did not hinder veneration of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. In 944 the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (912-59) requested that the Image be brought to the Capital. With great honor the Image of the Savior Not-Made-By-Hands was brought by the clergy to Constantinople. On **August 16** the Image of the Savior was placed in the Pharos Church of the Most-Holy Theotokos. There are several traditions concerning the fate of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. One is that it was carried away by Crusaders during the time of their dominion over Constantinople (1204-61), but the ship on which Holy Objects had been taken, sank in the Sea of Marmora. Another is that the Image Not-Made-By-Hands was taken about 1362 to Genoa, where it was presented to and preserved in a monastery dedicated to the Apostle Bartholomew.

General Announcements

OBLIGATORY HOLY DAY THIS WEEK — Thursday, Aug. 15, is the **Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Mother of God,, and her Glorious Assumption into Heaven**. It is the most ancient Marian Feast of the Church. It is customary to bless flowers and herbs on this day.



This custom of the Church arose when the Holy Theotokos fell-asleep on Mount Zion and of the apostles were miraculously transported back to Jerusalem with the exception of St. Thomas. Following the funeral procession along the Kidron Valley to the Gethsemane tomb, they returned to Mount Zion. Thomas later arrived and urged the apostles to take him to view and pray before the mortal remains. When then arrived at the tomb an aromatic fragrance of flowers and herbs filled the air near the spot when they laid her. Her most pure body was no longer present. Receiving a vision that she was transferred to heaven, the apostles rejoiced and strengthened to proclaim the Good News of her beloved Son, Jesus. Following the Divine Liturgies flowers and herbs

will be solemnly blessed as a thanksgiving offering. *Since flowers symbolize the beauty of Eternal Life, and herbs a healing remedy for the body, you may wish to take a blessed flower and place it on the grave(s) of your loved one(s) as a symbol of faith and a prayer that they may be resting in the eternal Kingdom of heaven. Bring flowers and herbs for this special blessing!* Check the liturgical page for the times of the Divine Liturgies. It is a Holy Day of Obligation!

BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS NEXT WEEKEND — Following each of



the Divine Liturgies **next weekend August 17-18, 2024** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the Academic Year of 2023-2024 in their various schools, colleges, and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing comes the third weekend of August. Receive God's blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy.

There is a RSVP for both teachers & students via phone call, or email if you would like to receive a small gift at this blessing by August 15.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS UNTIL ANNOUNCED — Until the 2025 Ecclesiastical Record Book arrives, the Church office will not be accepting intentions. An announcement will be appearing in a future edition of the S.O.T. when you may begin reserving your special date requests. **The Chancery has raised the stipend to \$20.00.** Thank you so much for your patience and consideration.

A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. TO COMMEMORATE CANONICAL GENESIS OF THE AMERICAN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH — As you are aware, this year our Church in the United States is celebrating 100 years of our canonical establishment. In addition we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Byzantine Chapel in the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. A dual celebration has been planned for the weekend of October 12-13, 2024 at the National Basilica. The Archeparchy is sponsoring a bus to attend the celebration. Please ask the Chancery for the itinerary and registration form for this celebration. Have them email it to you! This trip is limited to 48 people on a first come, first serve basis. Thank you in advance to your attention to this request. For further information, please e-mail Fr. Andrew Deskevich at proto@archpitt.org.

