

Parish Offerings – 12th Sunday after Pentecost — August 11, 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 (\$1,747) YP (\$9)	\$1,756.00
Holy Days (\$287) YP (\$4)	291.00
Votive Candles	82.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,129.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$733.80) YP (\$1)	\$734.80
Holy Day (\$60) YP (\$1)	61.00
Votive Candles	51.75

Church Attendance Last Week \$846.55

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (33)

Dormition Feast — Aug. 14 (MR) 7:00 p.m. (18); Aug. 15 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (25); (NS) 6:00 pm (28)



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 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Postfestive of the Dormition — August 18, 2024

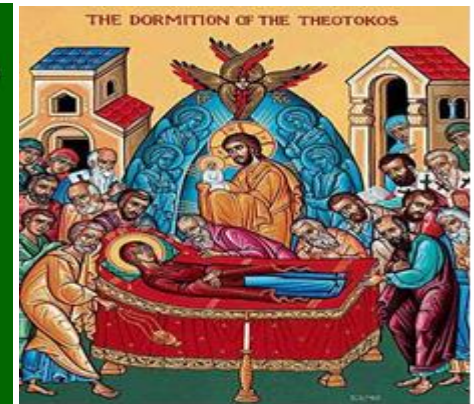


Parable of the
Tenants and
the Vineyard

Matthew 21:33-46

Mark 12:1-12

Luke 20:9-19



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 18, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number 33



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

Mon, Aug 19	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Aaron Leshko	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George (10 th ann of passing 8/18)
Tues, Aug 20	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Kenneth M. Shanta (birthday 8/18)	Michael Herczak
Wed, Aug 21	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Herczak (birthday)	Janet Herczak
Thrs, Aug 22	8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Albert Barnash (birthday)	Wife: Christine



Final Day of the Dormition Feast

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. 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary J. Bebech
(2nd ann of passing 8/15)



Friend

Sat, Aug 24 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Carmella Mell (14th ann of passing 8/13) Dgr: Regina

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Michael Muska Nancy & Michael Ferrell

14th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Aug 25 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Geraldine + Joe Babin (wed. ann.) Joe, Mary Ann & Jim
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 20 – Nina Bella Lecci; **Aug 21** – Carmella Marie Rippole; **Aug 22** – Albert Barnash.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, 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

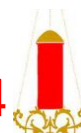
Q. What if I don't feel like going to the Divine Liturgy? **A. Catholic Apologist, Michelle Arnold:** If going to the Divine Liturgy is about getting together once a week with a group of people to sing, say some prayers, and have coffee and doughnuts after, it would be understandable for someone to feel like he might have better ways to spend his Sunday mornings. But that isn't why Catholics go to the Divine Liturgy. **We go because the Divine Liturgy is the re-presentation in time and space of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. Christ's passion, death, and resurrection are made present on the altar during the Divine Liturgy.** By attending, congregants are gathering around their Lord's Cross, much in the same way some of his disciples chose to do on that first Great Friday (the rest broke and ran). When we are present at the Divine Liturgy, we are standing vigil with the Lord in his agony, worshipping him, and receiving him sacramentally in Communion. If Christians do not "feel like" being present for *that*, can they possibly consider themselves disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ?



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 18 — August 24, 2024



(MR): **In memory of Anne Hrebenak** (22nd ann of passing 8/22)

offered by Marie, Luke & Anita

(NS): **Health, Welfare & Thanksgiving of Al Barnash** (birthday 8/22)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Wife; Christine

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2024

General Announcements

McKees Rocks & North Side

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



DON'T TAKE A
VACATION
FROM CHURCH

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.

UPDATED: 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. Don't be dismayed! Called the Church office prior to the end of August. Following this date, you will have to wait until the beginning of the new year to be placed on the 2025 roster. In the meantime, throughout 2024, you may use the supplemental envelopes located in the narthex. The program that we are using for envelopes, will not accept the new arrival of envelopes. 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 Chrismation's, 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.



BLESSING OF FLOWERS AND HERBS THIS PAST WEEK —



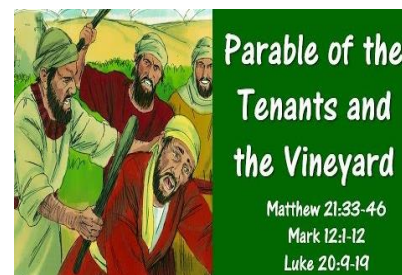
At Both parishes on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, flowers and herbs were solemnly blessed. Each family was asked to bring them for this blessing which occurs on this holy day. Since the aromatic fragrance came forth from her tomb and witnessed by the apostles. Thanks to all who continue to participate and transmit this annual tradition.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. Basil the Great Commentary

and Explanation of the Vineyard – Mt. 21:33-42

You need only to look at the vine to be reminded of your own nature, that is, if you observe it intelligently. No doubt you remember the image used by the Lord in which



he says that he is the vine and the Father the vinedresser. **Each of us who have been grafted onto the Church by faith he calls branches, and he urges us to bear much fruit so as not to be rejected as useless and thrown onto the fire.** Throughout the Scriptures the Lord continually likens human souls to vines. He says for instance: My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; and

again: I planted a vineyard and put a hedge round it. Clearly it is human souls that he calls his vineyard, and the hedge he has put round them is the security of his commandments and the protection of the angels; for the angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear him. Moreover, by establishing in the Church apostles in the first place, prophets in the second, and teachers in the third, he has surrounded us as though by a firmly planted palisade. In addition, the Lord has raised our thoughts to heaven by the examples of saints of past ages. He has kept them from sinking to the earth where they would deserve to be trampled on, and he wills that the bonds of love, like the tendrils of a vine, should attach us to our neighbors and make us rest on them, so that always climbing upward like vines growing on trees, we may reach the loftiest heights. **He also requires that we allow ourselves to be weeded. To be spiritually weeded means to have renounced the worldly ambitions that burdened our hearts.** Anyone who has renounced the love of material things and attachment to possessions, or who has come to regard as despicable and deserving of contempt the poor, wretched glory of this world, is like a weeded vine. Freed from the profitless burden of earthly aspirations, that person can breathe again. Finally, following out the implications of the comparison, we must not run to wood, or, in other words, show off or seek the praise of outsiders. Instead, we must bear fruit by reserving the display of our good works for the true vinedresser.

The Basic Understanding of this Parable

As stated in this passage, the religious leaders realize that Jesus is talking about them. They are the wicked tenants. Therefore, these leaders become very angry and want to arrest Jesus, but they cannot because they are afraid of the large crowd who would get upset if they did. As for the rest of the parable, the vineyard represents Israel. The owner represents God the Father. The servants sent by the owner represent the prophets that God has sent in the past, many of whom have been mistreated and even killed by Israel and its leaders. The son represents Jesus. When Jesus tells this parable, his main purpose is to tell the religious leaders what the reality of the situation is: God has placed them over Israel, but they (including past leaders) have been evil by mistreating his prophets. However, Jesus is also making a statement about himself in relation to God, since he is the son of the owner of the vineyard. He is even predicting his death at the hands of the religious leaders.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 29 Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 Aug 31 – Sept 2 90th Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina.
 September 1 Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
 September 2 Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday. Morning Divine Liturgy (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 September 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos.
 September 14-15 Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross (Sunday & Solemn Holy Day)
 Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes prior for the Solemn Enthronement of the
 Sunday & Holy Cross Holy Day — Sat. (MR) 3:45 pm; Sun (MR) 8:45 a.m.; (NS) 10:50 a.m.
 Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year.
 Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 p.m.
 October 1 Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

Martyr Agathonicus of Nicomedia & His Companions who suffered under Emperor Maximian August 22

The Martyrs Agathonicus, Zoticus, Theoprepus, Acindynus, Severian, Zeno and others accepted death for Christ during the reign of the emperor Maximian (284-305).

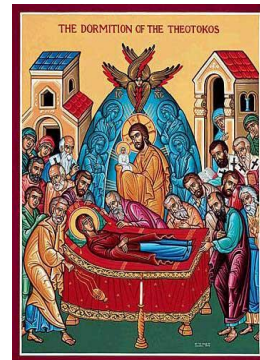


The Martyr Agathonicus was descended from the illustrious lineage of the Hypasians, and he lived at Nicomedia. Well versed in Holy Scripture, he converted many pagans to Christ, including the most eminent member of the Senate (its “princeps” or leader). Comitatus Eutolmius was sent to the Pontine (lower Black Sea) region, where he crucified the followers of the Christian Zoticus, who had refused to offer sacrifice to idols. He took Zoticus with him. In Nicomedia, Eutolmius arrested the Martyr Agathonicus (together with the princeps), and also Theoprepus,

Acindynus and Severian. After tortures, Eutolmius ordered that the martyrs be taken to Thrace for trial by the emperor. But along the way, in the vicinity of Potama, the Martyrs Zoticus, Theoprepus and Acindynus were unable to proceed further behind the chariot of the governor because of wounds received during torture. Therefore, they were put to death. The Martyr Severian was put to death at Chalcedon, and the Martyr Agathonicus together with others was beheaded with the sword by order of the emperor, in Selymbria. The relics of the Martyr Agathonicus were in a church named for him at Constantinople, and were seen in the year 1200 by the Russian pilgrim Anthony. And in the fourteenth century Philotheus, the archbishop of Selymbria, devoted an encomium to the Martyr Agathonicus.

General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK — Last Thursday, Aug.15 was **THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD** and a Holy Day of Obligation. 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); and *“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 fulfillment of this precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.**



BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS TODAY — Following each of the Divine Liturgies **this weekend August 19-20, 2023** 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. All teachers and students are invited to come forward. For those who have called the office, you will receive a small gift.



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.** If this may be a burden to some, why not consider joining your loved one together for one Divine Liturgy intention. 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.

