

## Parish Offerings – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — August 18, 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

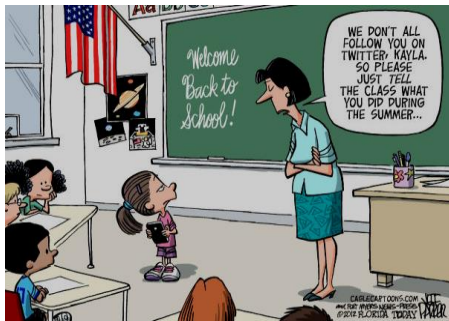
Regular Offering (\$2,014) YP (\$11) .....	\$2,025.00
Holy Days (\$379) YP (\$7) .....	386.00
Votive Candles .....	201.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,612.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$723.50) YP (\$1) .....	\$724.50
Holy Day (\$75) YP (\$1) Improvement (\$20) .....	96.00
Votive Candles .....	79.50
	<hr/>

## Church Attendance Last Week \$900.00

Sat (MR), 4:p.m. (35)  
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (49); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)



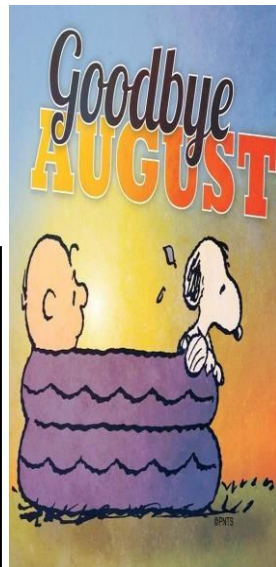
**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



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 14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 25, 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](http://Rusyn.fm) at 3:30 pm. Archive: [c-rsmedia.org](http://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 25, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number 34



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### 14<sup>th</sup> 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

Mon, Aug 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kulka (18<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Children: Kathy & John

Tues, Aug 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia (Miklos) Sibenak Son: Steven  
(7<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 8/25)

Wed, Aug 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Monsignor Russell A, Duker (birthday 8/24) Betty & Mark Warhola

### Beheading of the Holy Prophet,



### Forerunner & Baptist, John — Simple Holy Day

Traditional Day of Strict Abstinence (no meat or dairy) — RECOMMENDED  
SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (No Meat) & no serving or eating on a platter or dish

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

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll

Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell



### Final Day of the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for the  
return of traditional & God righteous values leading all to salvation.

Fri, Aug 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia Firko (birthday) + Mary Korim Son & Nephew: Fr. Firko  
+ Anna Hrivnak

Sat., Aug 31 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Shirley Kalnas

Andrea Harhai

\*\*\*\*\*

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost — Labor Day Weekend

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Jimmy Buffett (1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 9/1) Nancy & Michael Ferrell

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

### Mount St. Macrina Pilgrimage — Labor Day Weekend

SUN, Sept 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marlene Pfeiffer

Mary Ann Smoley

(40<sup>th</sup> day of passing 8/7)

## 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 25 – Lori Lee Rippole; Aug 27 – Ilona Goyda; Aug 29 – William Babin, Judith Bercik; Aug 31 – David Burns.

### 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.; Bill Kress, 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 Cifruk, 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. Is living together with a significant other still considered cohabitation if there is no sex involved? Are the two different? A. Catholic Apologist statement: For the purpose of this answer, I'll assume by "significant other" you are referring to a romantic partner of the opposite sex to whom you are not married and who is not married to anyone else. (If any of these conditions are not accurate, then the definition of the sexual sin in question changes and may increase in gravity.) Cohabitation between unmarried partners of the opposite sex is an occasion of two sins, not just one. The first is, of course, fornication (sexual relations outside of marriage by an opposite-sex couple). If sexual relations are not occurring during cohabitation, then the couple is not guilty of fornication. They may, however, be placing themselves in a near occasion of sin—which means proximity to the temptation of sin—and we are supposed to avoid near occasions of sin. The other sin is scandal, which is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. The person who gives scandal becomes his neighbor's tempter. He damages virtue and integrity; he may even draw his brother into spiritual death. Scandal is a grave offense if by deed or omission another is deliberately led into a grave offense (CCC 2284). A couple who lives together outside of marriage creates scandal either by allowing people to believe that they are engaging in fornication or by tempting people to believe that cohabitation outside of marriage is okay so long as the couple does not engage in sex. Either way, the couple is creating spiritual obstacles for others, and to do so is indeed an occasion of sin.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 25 — August 31, 2024

(MR): In memory of Geraldine & Joe Babin

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2024 offered by Great-Grandchdn: Milo, Cory and Travis (MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2024

(NS): In memory of Agnes Knoll

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2024



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks & North Side

### VA FISHER HOUSE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ALMS

Well, the parishioners were wonderful again this year. The truck was filled to the brim.



The staff at the Fisher House again was in need of the supplies and over whelmed by the graciousness of everyone. BIG thank you to everyone.— *Tina Burns, Assistants, David Burns and Steve Puluka*

**VA NOTE OF GRATITUDE** — *On behalf of the VA Pittsburgh HCS (646) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for the*

*donation of Fisher House wish list items for our Fisher House guests. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again in the future. Thank you for your continued support and advocacy, — Sincerely, Tony Lesesne ny Lesesne*

### 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 es 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.



### LAST WEEK UNTIL THE YEAR'S END FOR ACQUIRING CONTRIBURION ENVELOPES:

— Soon the 2025 Church envelopes will be soon 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 Chrismations, 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.

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### God Invites all to the Wedding Banquet (Mt. 22: 1-14)

In today's parable of the Wedding Banquet, the Father has prepared for His Son a wedding, and the Father sends out servants to invite people to attend this great occasion. He sends out servants with invitations not just one time, but three times, and the responses are varied. The first group of servants is simply ignored, the invited are not willing to come. The second group of servants is mocked, and some of the invited just leave and go back to their business, and others take the servants and abuse them and even kill them. The final group is sent to a different audience—



instead of a select few being invited to the wedding, these servants are sent on the highways to invite anyone they might see. And finally, the wedding hall is filled with guests. We find ourselves, obviously, to be in the final group. The king has called everyone, but even then, to attend, there are expectations! The guests are expected to be properly attired. ***This one man had not worn his wedding garment.*** The Church Fathers tell us this lapse is so terrible because the Host/the King had provided the wedding garments for his guests to wear. He has no excuse for not being dressed and ready for the wedding. **The wedding garment is our baptismal robe**, and all that goes with it: The purity of our lives, having died to the old man and being clothed in the new man, being clothed in Christ. Once we say "yes" to Christ, there are expectations. If you love Me, Christ says, keep My commandments. We are expected not to just continue doing whatever we want to do, but we are expected to take up our Cross daily and follow Christ wherever He may lead us. If we just keep doing whatever we want, and live in mortal sin, we are still the master in our lives. We will be just like this man who arrived at the wedding but didn't have his wedding garment. It would be a horrible thing to discover that the invitation was open to all (as it is), but that we had not prepared ourselves to be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom.

### AN ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS —

If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), but are homebound, our pastor is more than willing to make a sacramental visitation to your residence. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact him. **Please phone the parish office (412) 771-3324** and set a time when Father may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS AND PRAYER ARE VITALLY ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul! He is looking forward hearing from you!



## 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 ..... 90<sup>th</sup> 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 Precious Cross.  
 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.

## Commemorating the Holy Theotokos on the Final Day of the Liturgical Year — August 31

The Cincture of the Theotokos is a relic of the Blessed Virgin Mary, now in the Vatopedi monastery on Mount Athos, Greece, which is venerated by members of the Eastern Rite Churches.

The word "cincture" (Greek: zone) is sometimes also translated as "belt", "sash" or "girdle". It is the Eastern Rite equivalent of the Girdle of Thomas in the Western church, and the Syriac Holy Girdle. According to the Sacred Tradition of the Church, at the time of her Dormition, the Theotokos was buried by the Twelve Apostles in Jerusalem. Three days later, Thomas the Apostle, who had been delayed and unable to attend the funeral, arrived and asked to have one last look at the Virgin Mary. When he and the other apostles arrived at Mary's Tomb, they found that her body was missing. According to some accounts, the Virgin Mary appeared at that time and gave her belt (cincture) to the Apostle Thomas. There is no scriptural evidence for this event, nor is the relic the subject of any pronouncement by the Ecumenical Councils or the Holy Fathers. Its history prior to the reign of Justinian in the sixth century is unknown. Traditionally, the cincture was made by the Virgin Mary herself, out of camelhair. It was kept at Jerusalem for many

years, until it was translated to Constantinople in the 5th century, together with the Robe of the Virgin Mary, and deposited in the Church of St. Mary at Blachernae. This relic was embroidered with gold thread by the Empress Zoe, the wife of Emperor Leo VI, in gratitude for a miraculous cure. During the reign of Emperor Manuel I Komnenos (1143–1180) in the 12th century, an official feast day for the cincture was established on August 31 on the Eastern Rite Liturgical Calendar. Later, the Emperor John VI Kantakouzenos (1347–1355) donated the cincture to the Holy Great Monastery of Vatopedi on Mount Athos where it remains to this day, in a newer manufactured silver reliquary which depicts the Monastery. Icon depiction the Theotokos giving her cincture to Thomas the Apostle. **The above icon is a stylized representation of Mary's Tomb, with flowers lying on the sarcophagus.**



## General Announcements

### Simple Holy Day This Week

### Beheading of St. John the Baptist — August 29

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time when John the Baptist was



preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip, danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though it be half of his kingdom. Being persuaded by her mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist. Herod gave the order and

**John was beheaded in prison and his head brought to him on a platter.** John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evil doers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Passover but its celebration on *August 29 was established because*, on that day, a church which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed. **Divine Liturgies Wednesday, Aug. 29 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m. In the spirit of this feast try to avoid eating from a dish or platter, but use a humble paper plate. The founders and benefactors of our Churches ate from the kitchen pots and pans on this day in St. John's honor! Some did not cut anything that resembled a head (eg. cabbage, lettuce, even a tomato) with a knife!**

### UNIONTOWN CELEBRATING 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Glory to Jesus Christ!

In thanksgiving to God, and with great enthusiasm and joy, we Sisters invite you to our 90th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. For this 90th Pilgrimage, we chose the theme "Theotokos: Our Rock, Our Refuge and Our Strength: Celebrating 90 Years of Grace." Indeed, Our Gracious Mother has been the Rock, Refuge, and Strength of our Province for 103 years and has been the very foundation upon which our Pilgrimage has been built these 90 years. Mt. St. Macrina has received so many blessings throughout its history, and our Pilgrimage allows us to share these blessings with all of you, our faithful Pilgrims. Ninety years of prayer, 90 years of blessings, 90 years of relationships, 90 years of grace. It doesn't get much better than this, and we know it. We are grateful to you for your participation in our history, and we know that you share in our joy as we celebrate our 90th Pilgrimage. May Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Rock, Our Refuge, and Our Strength guide and protect you in your priestly ministry. Gratefully in the Lord, Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM, Provincial