

**Parish Offerings – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — September 1, 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 (\$3,310) YP (\$6) .....	\$3,316.00
Holy Days (\$170) YP (\$4) .....	174.00
Votive Candles .....	234.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,724.00

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$559) YP (\$1) .....	\$560.00
Holy Day (\$15) Utilities (\$20) Improvement (\$45).....	80.00
Votive Candles .....	75.75

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$715.75

90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Uniontown Pilgrimage — Sat (MR), 4:p.m. (22)  
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (41); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (19)





**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
**Michael P. Ferrell**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
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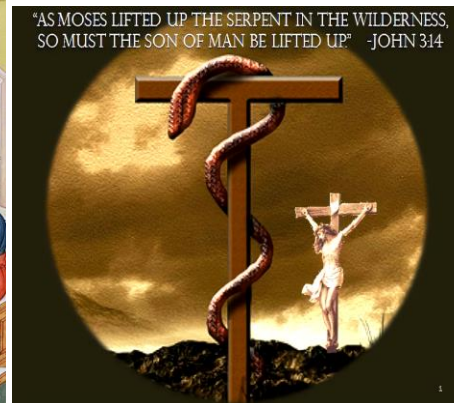


**North Side Parishioner**  
**Alan Valeriano**  
**(412) 638-3417**  
**PA #172370**



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE 16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Nativity of the Theotokos — Sept. 8, 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.
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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).

September 8, 2024 Seasonal Greeting: Volume XIV Number 36



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

## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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



Nativity of the Holy Theotokos  
Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

& Sunday Before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

WED, Sept 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Bishop John M. Bilock (30<sup>th</sup> ann. of passing)  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. Valeriano & Kallop Families  
(13<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/15)

Synaxis of Joachim & Anne

Mon, Sept 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joanne H. Krynicky Fr. Firko

Tues, Sept 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank T. Firko + Frank Firko, Sr.  
+ Sam Onesi + Ann Onesi Son, Grandson & Nephew

National Patriot Day

Wed, Sept 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Diane Bell (memorial) Cousins of Bordas Family

Final Day of the Theotokos Nativity Feast

Thrs, Sept 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Gary S. Hubal Family

Prefestive Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

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

Fri, Sept 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + James Lesczynski (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing) Zula Family

Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Precious Cross — Solemn Holy Day

Elevation of the Precious Cross

Recommended Simple Abstinence — Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

Fri, Sept 13 \*\*\* 5:45 p.m. (NS) For The Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sat, Sept 14 \*\*\* 8:45 a.m. (MR) + Rose A. Debranski (20<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Dgr: Nancy

Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Amelia M. Sotak (5<sup>th</sup> ann of pass. 9/11) Dgr: Elaine Cassidy

### Sunday After Elevation Of Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 15 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Christine A. Michalim (birthday). Husband: Wallace & Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Gerard Slagle (1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 9/14) 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 to be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Sept 11 – Donna Herron, Katherine Leasure, JOHN NEWPORT; Sept 13 – Cynthia Anderson, Adam Leasure, Derrick Burns.

## 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.; 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 Cifrutak, Mildred Terrek.

TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Posnak  
FORBES REGIONAL HOSPITAL (2570 Haymaker Rd., Monroeville, PA 15146): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

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

Q. Why do we use our right hand instead of our left hand to make the sign of the cross? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The right hand, probably in part due to the fact that most people are right-handed, is traditionally the hand of blessing and greeting in many cultural settings, a convention found in Scripture and Tradition. For example, Jesus places the sheep on his right hand but the goats on his left; he himself is "seated at the right hand of the Father"; at God's "right hand are blessings forevermore"; and so on. In sacred images, Jesus is depicted raising his right hand in blessing. Even today, we use our right hand for handshakes or salutes; we are familiar with the phrase "the right hand of fellowship" and so forth. By contrast, the left hand has in many cultures a very different set of traditional associations (for example, it is often designated for personal hygiene; the word sinister is derived from the Latin for left-handed; etc.). For all these reasons, it is natural that the sign of the cross has traditionally been made with the right hand.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept. 8 – Sept. 14, 2024

(MR): In memory of Amelia M. Sotak (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/14)

offered by : Dgr: Elaine Cassidy

(NS): In memory of Paul G. Mathis (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of pass 9/10)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2024 offered by Sister: Tamara Harding (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2024



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks & North Side

**CONDOLENCES EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing **Diane (Shulter) Bell, 74**, of Stowe Township on August 29, 2024 at Genesis (Manor Care Greentree Road) following a short illness. She was preceded in passing by her husband, William. She is survived by her beloved Children: David, and parishioner, Kimberly (Ray) Zoldos: Sister: Audrey (Mark) Studley and Brother: Robert (Debra) Schulter. She also will be missed by her seven grandchildren, including Daniel, Matthew and Ryan. The Anthony Musmanno Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Interment took place at the Military Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville PA on Friday, Sept. 5. Our parish extends its most *sincere condolences to the Bell, Schulter and Zoldos Families.* In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal rest to your servant, Diane, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'*



**PARISH VOCATION ADVANCES TO THE DIACONATE** — Most recently, an official announcement was made by the Chancery that Archbishop Skurla will be ordaining **Subdeacon Luke Iyengar to the Diaconate here at Holy Ghost Church on Sunday, September 22, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.** This is a tremendous honor for our parish! Following the Liturgical Celebration we will host a light luncheon in the gym. If you would like to join us, please sign the sheet at both churches.. Our Volunteer Committee needs to know how many will be attending. Please join us as we commemorate this auspicious occasion.



**GRATITUDE TO FLOWER DONOR AT THE HOLY THEOTOKOS ICON** — During the Nativity of the Theotokos, Sept. 8 an anonymous donor graciously contributed flowers to our Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis on the Feast of the Dormition. May God richly bless you for this sacrificial gesture, and may the Holy Virgin always extend her vail of protection over you and your beloved! Symbolically, we can all donate "flowers of prayer" each time that we meditate and pray the Holy Rosary, Akathist or Moleben.in her honor.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: COME & SEE WEEKEND** — Young men 18-35 are invited to a weekend retreat, Friday through Saturday, November 8-10, 2024 at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary. *The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest.* No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense



involved in participating in this retreat. Deadline for *online registration is at rector@bcs.edu by Wed. Oct 16.*

# SUNDAY BEFORE THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION

## OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

**Gospel meditation: John 3:13-17 teaches that Jesus: Not a Man sent from God, but God come as Man**

The one aspect about Jesus that impressed the crowds (Mt. 7:28-29) and irritated the



Jewish leaders (Mt. 91:23) was that He taught and acted with authority. The basic issue for a Pharisee like Nicodemus was the authority of Jesus. Nicodemus was willing to grant, by virtue of the signs performed by our Lord that Jesus was a man sent from God, but this was not nearly enough. Jesus was God sent as a man. Our Lord's heavenly origin set him apart from every other Israelite, even the great men such as Abraham, Moses and the prophets: "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of man!" (Jn 3:13). This is why Jesus was qualified

to speak to Nicodemus of 'heavenly things' (v. 12)—He is the only one come down from heaven. He is the Son of Man. In my opinion, our Lord employed the term 'Son of Man' with reference to Himself with the specific intent of identifying Himself with the Messiah, referred to in Daniel 7:13 as the 'Son of Man. Neither Nicodemus nor anyone else can give sufficient heed to the words of our Lord Jesus, until they have come to grips with His person. He is God come as man. Once that is settled, men must heed His teaching.

## Byzantine Catholics Transmit Ancient Christian Tradition

*All Catholics originally made the Sign of the Cross like today's Byzantines*

As we begin to celebrate the *Feast of the Elevation of the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord*, it is a good time to re-examine the way in which we bless ourselves. As

is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we hold the thumb and first two fingers together signifying our belief in the Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The remaining two fingers are indicative of our belief of who Jesus is: God and man. These two figures are pressed into the palm reminding us that God came to earth and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Thus, when we make the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we begin by touching the forehead with the thumb and two fingers together while saying either "In the Name of the Father or Glory to the Father." Our action continues to move down below the heart (near the naval) signifying that the Son descended to earth to become man, to die and then resurrect from the dead.



The movement then is directed to the right shoulder while saying "and to the Son" since He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of the Father. The gesture then goes across to the left shoulder while saying "and to the Holy Spirit. Amen." Historians seem to agree that this is the way Christians began signing themselves around the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. The entirely true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the One Who was nailed to the Precious Cross. This action is indicated in the catechesis of **Pope Innocent III (1198-1216)** when delivering the following:

*"The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity .... This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the right to the left, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left). Others, however, make the sign of the cross from the left to the right, because from misery (left) we must cross over to glory (right), just as Christ crossed over from death to life, and from Hades to Paradise. [Some priests] do it this way so that they and the people will be signing themselves in the same way. You can easily verify this — picture the priest facing the people for the blessing — when we make the sign of the cross over the people, it is from left to right."*

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 8 ..... Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos.  
September 13-14 ..... Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross (Sunday & Solemn Holy Day)  
Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes prior for the Solemn Enthronement of the Precious Cross.  
Fri. (NS) 5:45 pm; Sat (MR) 8:45 a.m.  
..... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year.  
..... Archiepiscopal 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.

## Solemn Holy Day This Week — Sept. 14 Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross



Two events in connection with the Precious Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Holy Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Life-Creating Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Precious Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that May God grant to our Parishioner-Jubilarians health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita! This idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was

the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macario's told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zachariah saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.

**We bow (+) to Your Cross O Lord,  
and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection!**

# General Announcements

**NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES —** Our *Eastern Christian Formation* (E.C.F.) Classes will be commencing enrollment in the next few weeks. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration which follows all Divine Liturgies beginning next week. All classes begin on **Catechetical Sunday, September 15, 2024** following the Sunday morning (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Contact the Church Office for further information.



**ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS —** Next Sunday, Archbishop Skurla will be honoring all Byzantine Catholic Wedding Jubilarians marking the special milestones this year at St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA at 3:00 p.m. Our Holy Ghost Parishioner-Jubilarians, whose names were submitted and included in the celebration were: (MR) **Judy & Edward Wovchko (60)**; (MR) **Linda & John Chomko (45)**; (MR) **Peggy & Charles McCusker (45)**; (MR) **Tam & Frank Revtai (40)**; (MR) **Sandra & Gregory Rosko (40)**; (MR) **Donna & Harry Herron (30)**; (MR) **Kimberly & Eric Ruud (30)**; **Erin & Carl Bates (30)**; (NS) **Cindy & Deacon Michael Meaders (25)**; (NS) **Leah & Damian Trapl (10)**. May God grant to our Parishioner-Jubilarians health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



## Holy Days Important to be Celebrated

In the liturgical calendar of the Church, Holy Days play an important part and should be celebrated by the faithful. Each event reminds us of the importance of the salvific happenings which took place. It transcends space and time through the liturgical expression, and manifests God's goodness to us as they gradually reveal His salvific plan for us. Our Byzantine Catholic Church ranks Holy Days in three classifications: **(1) Obligation;** **(2) Solemn;** & **(3) Simple.** The first precept of the Church **does oblige** us to come together and celebrate the salvific event. Solemn and Simple encourage us to do the same. *However, Solemn and Simple Holy Days are not a free ticket to avoid gathering and glorifying them. We should attend these Liturgical Services unless we are seriously impeded not by obligation but by love and gratitude.* Please make every effort in this new liturgical year to attend all or at least several Solemn and Simple Holy Days and enrich your souls with God's grace that awaits you. Our dual purpose in attending is not to be entertained but to (1) worship and praise God for all that He has done and continues to do for us through His mercy and compassion; and (2) allow Him to act by feeding us with His Word and Eucharist. If we have not done so already, let us begin this week with the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross. *The Solemn Enthronement of Holy Cross begins 10 minutes earlier on (NS) Friday @ 5:45 p.m. & (MR) Saturday @ 8:45 a.m..*

