

## Parish Offerings – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — September 8, 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 (\$1,635) YP (\$12) .....	\$1,647.00
Holy Days (\$416) YP (\$2) .....	418.00
Votive Candles .....	104.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,169.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$617) YP (\$1) .....	\$618.00
Holy Day (\$95) (YP) (\$1).....	96.00
Votive Candles .....	101.10

## Church Attendance Last Week \$815.10

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (23)  
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP

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

Sunday after the Elevation of the Precious Cross  
September 15, 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).

September 15, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number 37



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Postfestive and Sunday After the Feast  
of the Elevation of the 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

Mon, Sept 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare Anonymous  
of Regina Mell

3:00 p.m. (MR) Thanksgiving Christine & Al Barnash  
(wedding anniversary)

Tues, Sept 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) Special Intention Anonymous

Wed, Sept 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Robert Kundrat Mom: Theresa Kundrat  
(20<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

Thrs, Sept 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene O. Bordas Children

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

Fri, Sept 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) Commendation of Infant + Nicole Elena Ringes Mom: Dawn Ringes

**Final Day of the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross**

Sat, Sept 21 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak  
+ Mary + Michael Sotak, Sr. Wife & Dgtr-in-law: Jane R. Sotak

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

4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

### 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

SUN, Sept 22 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Beverly Harsh (1<sup>st</sup> ann of passing) Helenea & Ed Conner

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ethel M. Galida (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen

3:00 p.m. (MR) Hierarchal Divine Liturgy: Diaconate Ordination  
of Luke Iyengar to the Major Order of Deacon

## 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 15 – Norma Kacsur, Maryann Puluka; Sept. 16 — MARY FRANCES SPONTAK; Sept 20 – Dolores Babin, Laura Saber; Sept 23 – THERESA FITZURKA, TAMARA HARDING.

### 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 Cifrutlak. Mildred Terrek.

**TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING** (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Posnak  
**CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER** (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

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

**Q.** If I cannot recall if I mentioned a particular sin the last time I went to confession but recall it now, should I mention it in my next confession, or was it absolved already? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** It was absolved already. If it is a venial sin, you do not need to confess it. If it was a mortal sin, it was absolved, provided you at least implicitly intended to mention it if you had remembered it. What this means is that you confessed all known sins and would have confessed whatever others you committed had you recalled them. So, if you now recall a mortal sin, mention it the next time you go to confession.



### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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



**Sept. 15 — Sept. 21, 2024**

(MR): **In memory of Robert Kundrat** (20<sup>th</sup> ann of passing (9/18)

offered by : Mom: Theresa Kundrat

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

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Dgtr: A. Velma Seman

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2024



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks & North Side

PARISH VOCATION ADVANCES TO THE DIACONATE — *Subdeacon Luke*



*Iyengar will be ordained to the Diaconate here at Holy Ghost Church next 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. Unfortunately, the time has expired to sign for the luncheon which follows. However, if you wish to attend the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of Ordination, you may do so.

**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](mailto:rector@bcs.edu) by Wed. Oct 16.



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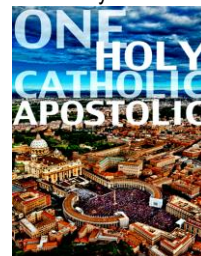
**SCANDLE IN THE CHURCH (cont.) — (3) Catholic:** To be catholic is to be universal. A purely invisible Church can claim universality, but only a visible Church can prove it. What we see in denominations claiming to be part of an invisible Church is constant breakups, with one faction claiming that another isn't truly Christian. But in a visible Church, the Catholic Church, we can see with our own eyes the same faith practiced from America to Africa to Asia. Apostolic: **(4) Apostolic:** Christ himself picked twelve men to lead his Church. He wanted them to be the visible leaders so that all men would know that communion with the apostles meant communion with him. The apostles understood how important a visible leadership was, and so they appointed successors—the bishops—to take up their mantle after their deaths. The hierarchy of the Church is a visible sign of the continuity of the Church—in teaching and in practice—from the time of the apostles to today. Even during a time of many scandals within the Church, there is nothing more scandalous than the Church itself. It reflects the reality that God has taken this broken material world—and its equally broken inhabitants—and uses it to bring us to him. It is a constant sign to the world that the material, physical world matters. We are each a body/soul composite, and so we need physical as well as spiritual signs to direct us to God. Just as God came into this world as a visible man, he gave us a visible Church to lead us into the next world.

**Attend the Daily Divine Liturgy!**  
**Grace will be there!**

# The Scandal of the Church

*(The following article has appeared on the Catholic Answers Webpage, and is reprinted to give understanding to the Catholic Church's perspective concerning the subject matter. The author is Eric Sammons, Catholic Apologist — September 20, 2018)*

In the second century, the Church faced its first great heresy: Gnosticism. This confusing and eclectic system of beliefs threatened to destroy the Church in its infancy. Among Gnosticism's tenets was the conviction that the material world is contemptible, unworthy of redemption. Unlike the Christian view that the material world was originally created good but then fell through sin, Gnostics believed that the world we live in was created as the result of some tragic accident. Only the spiritual world mattered; anything physical was to be left behind. Against this heresy rose the great Church Father St. Irenaeus ... explained that the key doctrine of Christianity is the Incarnation: the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The physical world is not to be held in contempt; on the contrary, it provides the means of our salvation. Although



eventually Gnosticism was conquered, its material/spiritual dualism has reared its ugly head throughout Church history. Many heresies borrowed it, including Manichaeism, the heresy embraced for a time by St. Augustine. And although Protestantism does not fully endorse a material/spiritual dualism, there are aspects of this flawed worldview in its belief system—for example, in its rejection of a visible Church. In the most common Protestant view (since there are always competing views within Protestantism), the Church is an invisible entity made up of all Christian believers (how a "believer" is defined also varies among Protestants). Any visible manifestations, such as leaders or physical sacraments or buildings, are merely tools Christians use for practical reasons. None are essential to the Church, and all can be discarded if need be. In contrast, the Catholic faith teaches that there is a visible Church here on earth, founded by Christ himself. It includes a visible membership—the baptized—and a visible leadership structure: the hierarchy of bishops and the service of ordained priests and deacons. These visible aspects are fundamental to the Church and cannot be discarded. Throughout history, many Christians have been scandalized at the visible quality of the Church, usually because of the un-Christian behavior of its members. Scandals within the Church emphasize the scandal of the Church. There is a certain attractive neatness to the idea of a purely invisible Church. If a leader commits some egregious sin, then one can simply claim he wasn't really part of the true, invisible Church (which contains only the pure and holy). Since the Church's membership is invisible, this can never be disproven. We can even understand why this notion of an invisible Church gained so much traction in the sixteenth century; after all, this was a time of great moral crisis in the visible institution of the Catholic Church. Many priests were immoral and many bishops were corrupt, and some popes were both. How could these men be part of Christ's Church? So the simple answer—they're not—proliferated. Yet in spite of all the scandalous sins among its clergy and hierarchy, Catholics continued to insist that Christ founded a visible Church, and that we can know with certainty who are the members and who are the leaders. Why this insistence? Because **visibility is essential to each of the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.** **(1) One:** Visibility is perhaps most important to the oneness—the unity—of the Church. We see this clearly by the opposite example: the disunity of Protestantism, which teaches a purely invisible Church. If the universal Church is invisible, it doesn't matter if you belong to the Presbyterians or Methodists or Lutherans. It also doesn't matter, then, if your beliefs are unified. An emphasis on invisibility ultimately leads to tens of thousands of visible denominations teaching conflicting belief systems. **(2) Holy: Although the visible Church has always had sinners in its midst, it has also always possessed the means of holiness.** And the primary means of holiness are the very visible sacraments. Through material things such as water, bread, wine, and oil, Christ dispenses his graces upon his followers. With the sacraments, we can know with certainty that holiness is attainable; without the sacraments, we can only guess. (cont. near end).

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 14-15.... Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF begins.  
 ..... 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.  
 October 4 . Special Patriotic Rosary each October Friday for November's General Election @ (MR) 6:00 p.m.  
 ..... Blessing of animals (pets) following the Patriotic Rosary @ app. 6:30 p.m.  
 October 6-10 ..... Annual Clergy Retreat at the Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA  
 October 12-13 ..... Metropolitan Centenary Celebration in Washington, DC.  
 October 13 ..... (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting in Church following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.  
 October 14 ..... (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting, Monday @ 7:00 p.m.  
 October 29 ..... Sunday of Christ the King.  
 November 3 ..... Annual Moleben for our 4 saintly bishops. @ 3:00 p.m.  
 November 10 ...**Deanery Pasta Dinner from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. — St. Elias Church, Munhall.**

## Saint of the Week

### THE HOLY BISHOP-MARTYR HYPATIUS AND THE PRIEST ANDREW — September 21

Bishop-Martyr Hypatius, Bishop of Ephesus, and the Priest Andrew suffered in the eighth century under the iconoclast emperor Leo the Isaurian (717-741). As young men, they studied together in one of the monasteries. Saint Hypatius accepted monasticism, and Saint Andrew became a clergyman and zealously instructed people in the fullness of the Christian Faith. When the emperor Leo the Isaurian began to persecute those who venerated holy icons, and the holy icons were thrown out of the churches, to be trampled underfoot and burned, Saints Hypatius and Andrew rose up in defense of icon veneration, urging their flock to maintain faithfulness to true worship. The emperor, wanting to persuade the saints, summoned them to him and arranged a debate about the veneration of icons, at which Saints Hypatius and Andrew were consistently able to defend the veneration of icons. They threw the martyrs into prison and for a long time they held them there, hoping that this would force the saints to renounce their convictions, but the saints remained steadfast. Then the emperor gave orders to torture the martyrs. They beat them, flayed the skin and hair from their heads, smeared their beards with tar and set it afire, and they burned holy icons upon the heads of the martyrs. The saints bore all their tortures patiently and remained alive. The emperor gave orders to drag the saints through the city to be mocked by the people, and only after this to kill them. They threw the bodies of Saints Hypatius and Andrew to be eaten by dogs, but believers reverently gave them burial.



## General Announcements

### A Short Explanation of the Three-Bar Cross

The Three-Bar Cross is used by those worshipping in Byzantine-Slavic Churches, namely Byzantine Catholics. As Ruthenian (Rusyn) Byzantine Catholics, we count the horizontal bars and not the vertical beam. There are 2 perspectives of its meaning: (1) the top bar contains the name that Pilate chose to be placed over Jesus' head: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"; the bottom bar, the foot-stool, is seen slanted indicating the direction of the Repentant Good Thief who went upwards to Paradise; and the downward direction that the Unrepentant Thief who went to hell. (2) Another common explanation is seen from the perspective of two original apostles who gave their lives for Jesus and were also crucified. The top bar represents the cross of St. Peter, who requested to be crucified upside down, not deeming himself worthy to die in the same manner as His Lord; and the bottom bar is in the form of an "X" referred to as the St. Andrew's Cross, who was put to death in this manner. We should wear and hang the Three-Bar Cross as the trophy of our salvation and as a witness to others that God loves them and seeks their salvation.



**ACCEPTING NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** — Our *Eastern Christian Formation* (E.C.F.) Classes is accepting enrollment to this year's Religious Education Classes. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration follows all Divine Liturgies beginning today. All classes begin next Sunday – **Catechetical Sunday, today, September 15, 2024** following the 9:00 a.m. (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program that assists you as main catechists for your children! See Fr. Firko.



**ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS** — This is a revised listing of last week's Marriage Jubilarians (some were inadvertently missing! Sorry!): This afternoon, 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!

