

Parish Offerings – Sunday After Theophany — January 12, 2025

“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 (\$2,183) YP (\$22.01) Holy Days (\$719.10)	\$2,924.11
Special Donation (Joyce & James Walsh)	100.00
Initial (\$107) BCW (\$231) Radio Ministry (\$50)	388.00
Votive Candles	150.05
	<hr/>
	\$3,562.16

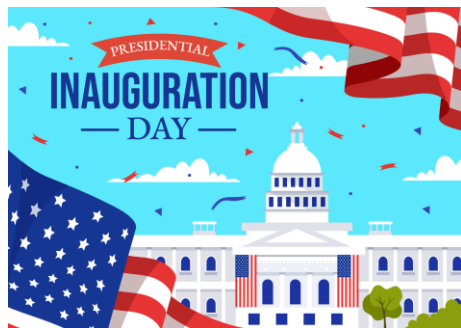
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$754.25) YP (\$2)	\$756.25
Holy Days (\$35) Initial (\$46) Improv (\$10) BCW (\$70)	161.00
Votive Candles	64.00
	<hr/>
	\$981.25

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (27)

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (76); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)



Valerian F. Szal

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

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

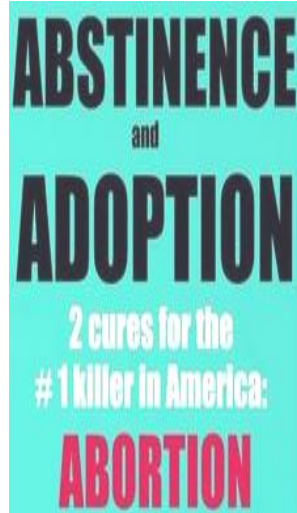


GCU offers Insurance and Annuity
Benefits greater than most
financial institutions. Info call
Randy
(412) 973-1085



North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172370



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

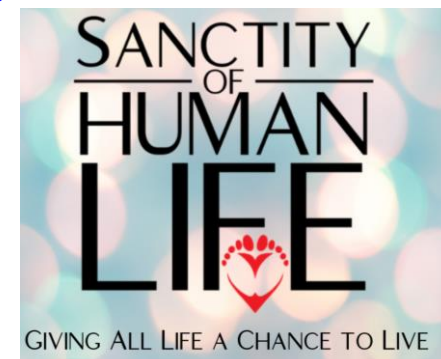
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prayer for Christian Unity & Pro-life Sunday

January 19, 2025



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)

The Reverend Deacon Luke R. Iyengar (MR)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

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.

d. Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

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.

Social Hall Rental: (MR) Contact Church Office.

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 last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!

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).

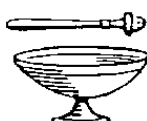
January 19, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 3



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

THE 35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUN, Jan 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Joe Babin (birthday 1/19) Joe, Mary Ann & Jim
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Peter A. Smoley. (52nd ann of passing 1/17) Dgtr: Mary Ann



Federal Holiday — Inauguration Presidential Day — Martin Luther King, Jr.
Banks Closed & No Postal Service

Mon., Jan 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Gary S. Hubal Family

Tue., Jan 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia Wovchko (birthday) Anonymous

Commemoration of Respect Life



Wed., Jan 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann + John Marks (1st ann of pass) H. Jonathan Osso

Thrs., Jan 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Monsignor Russell A. Duker (1st ann of passing 1/22) Anonymous

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for victims of CA wildfire
Fri., Jan 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Diane Bell Dgtr: Kimberly Zoldas & Family (birthday 1/14)

Conclusion of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity

Sat., Jan 25 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the 36th Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Irene + John + Robert Bordas Dgtr & Sister: Karen G.

36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUN., Jan 26 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Hrebenak (39th ann of passing) Deacon Luke, Maria & Anita Iyengar
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert J. Galida (47th ann of passing 1/21) Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen

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

Jan 19 – Barbara Lutz; Jan 21 – Nicholas Nazak I, KIRK LATTA; Jan 23 – Dean Poloka, Lydia Sell; Jan 24 – Lainy Usouski.

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

HOME: Dolores Babin, Margaret Belunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Kurt Perschy, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton. 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, Mildred Terrek.

CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Posnak ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): Irene Muha.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What should you get out of church (Divine Liturgy)? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The real question is, "What should you put into the Divine Liturgy?" We are there to worship God (CCC 1070, 1073). He is not there to entertain us. With good and fervent worship of God and heartfelt prayer, you will have an inner peace in knowing that you adore God and are giving Him thanks (1 Jn 4:19; Sirach 7:30). This is the funny thing: People who go to the Divine Liturgy seeking to put in faith, hope and charity find themselves getting all sorts of wonderful things out of the Divine Liturgy. Those who go trying to get something out of the Divine Liturgy often find it dull.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

January 19 — January 25, 2025

(MR): In memory of Agnes Bialek (birthday 1/14)

offered by Dgtr: Eileen & Kevin Finnegan

(NS): In memory of Anthony Knoll (34th ann of passing 1/19)

(MR) Few AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) Few AVAILABLE 2025



General Announcements

MEETING NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS PIROHI PROJECT — We are working to organize plans for this year's Lenten Pirohi Project. All Volunteers for the Project are asked to set aside next **Sunday, January 26, 2025** following the Divine Liturgy in the Church basement.

REPAIRS MADE TO CONVENT & SCHOOL PLUMBING SYSTEM — Near the end of 2024 old rust steam pipes from Boiler-Steam System wore out causing water damage. They were fixed at the amount of \$900.00 — This past week a slop sink fixture located in the restroom near the school classrooms burst due to antiquity. Armstrong Solutions (formerly Matt Mertz Plumbing) had to order parts. Our upcoming water bill will be enormous due to a worn-out main water valve that stifled the closure of the flowing water. More information will be forthcoming.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS — Just a reminder **THE 2024 INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION RECORDS CAN NOW BE REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL. THIS METHOD IS MUCH MORE EFFICIENT AND CAN BE QUICKLY EXPEDITED TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE REQUEST YOUR 2024 STATEMENT NOW BY SUBMITTING YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS to:**



secretary225@verizon.net. If you do not have email, and would like a copy of your 2024 donations, please call the church office and leave a request.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DISMANTLED TODAY — We no sooner decorate the Church for Christmas and it is time to dismantle it for another year. Volunteers from both parishes are asked to gather today, **Sunday, January 19, 2025 following the Divine Liturgy for both parishes.** You are asked to give approximately an hour of your time in helping put away the festive decorations.

CONTINUING THE EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY — This Saturday concludes the *Annual Eight Days of Prayer* for the intention of Christian Unity. Each year from January 18-25, Christians unite to pray in the same sentiments that Jesus prayed to the Father: *"That all may be one ... so that the world may believe."* (John 17:21). **This year's theme is: "Do you believe?" (Jn. 11:26).** As Catholics we have the fullness of the faith that Jesus established, let us pray that others may be drawn into its truth. Pray each day: *"O Almighty and Merciful God, You willed that the different nations should become one people through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. In this may Your name be glorified Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen."*

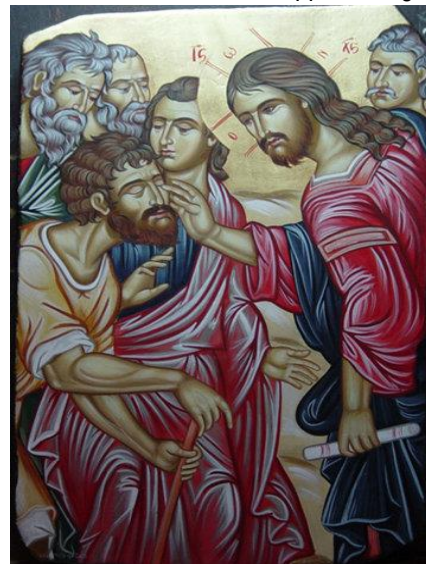


PARISH & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED — The members of the PAC/FAC are reminded of meetings on (MR) **Saturday, February 8, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m. in Church Office & (NS) Sunday, February 9, 2025 following the Sunday Divine Liturgy in the church.** Major agenda is the 2024 Church Financial Report. Please place this date on your agenda.

Today's Gospel Reflection

The Blind Man Refused to Be Silent — GOSPEL Luke 18: 35-43: 12-17

It was amongst the wayside crowd that the blind man was sitting. When he heard the murmur of the approaching throng he asked what was happening and was



told that Jesus was passing by. Immediately he cried out to Jesus for help and healing. Thereupon everyone tried to silence him. But the man would not be silenced. He shouted again. So Jesus stopped, and the blind man found the healing he so passionately desired. This story tells us two things. (1) It tells us something about the blind man. He was determined to come face to face with Jesus. Nothing would stop him. He refused to be silent and he refused to be restrained. His sense of need drove him relentlessly into the presence of Jesus. If a man wants a miracle that is the spirit he must show. A gentle, sentimental longing never really taps the power of God; but the

passionate, intense desire of the very depths of the human heart will never be disappointed. (2) It tells us something about Jesus. At that moment he was discoursing to the crowd like any rabbi. But at the blind man's cry of need he stopped; the discourse forgotten. For Jesus it was always more important to act than to talk. Words always took second place to deeds. Here was a human soul in need. Speech must end and action begin. Someone has said that many teachers are like men throwing chatty remarks to a man drowning in a tempestuous sea. Jesus was never like that; he leaped to the rescue of the man. There is many a man who could not put two sentences together but others love him because he is kind. Men may respect an orator but they love a man with helping hands. Men admire a man with a great mind but they love a man with a big heart.

Pope Francis Declares 2025 A Jubilee Year



Our Holy Father Francis opened the Holy Year of 2025 with the theme of **HOPE** in Rome at the Vatican on December 25, 2024. A Holy Year has occurred ordinarily every 25 years since the year 1300 ad. *"We need HOPE, Pope Francis says, "... the HOPE that springs from the pierced heart of Jesus on the Cross. We HOPE in "our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our HOPE of sharing in the glory of*

God ... HOPE does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5: 1-5).

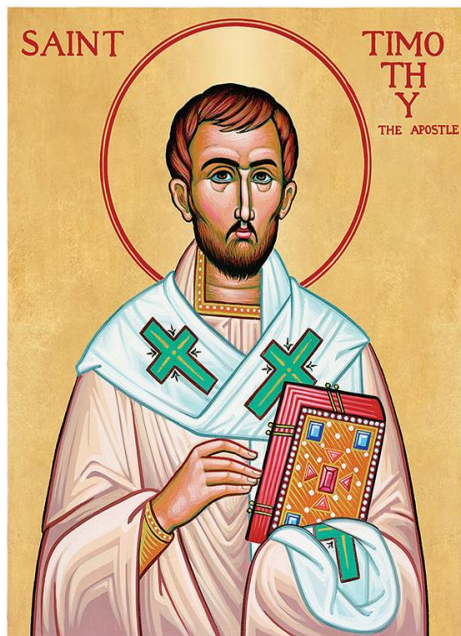
Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 19 Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
 Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
 January 18-25 Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity
 January 20 Federal Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. & Inauguration Day — No Banking/Postal Services.
 January 22 Day of Prayer for the Respect of Human Life.
 January 30 Feast of 3 Holy Hierarchs: Thursday (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 February 2 Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 a.m.; (NS) 10:50 p.m.
 February 21-22 First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.

Saint of the Week — January 22

Holy Apostle Timothy

Timothy was one of the Seventy Apostles. He was born in Lystra in Lycaonia of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. The Apostle Paul praised his mother and grandmother because of their sincere faith. "I yearn to see you again, recalling your tears, so that I may be filled with joy, as I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and that, I am confident, lives also in you" (II Timothy 1: 4-5). Timothy first met with the great apostle in Lystra and was himself a witness when Paul healed the one lame from birth. Later, Timothy was an almost constant traveling companion of Paul, traveling with him to Achaia, Macedonia, Italy and Spain. Sweet in soul, he was a great zealot for the Faith, and a superb preacher. Timothy contributed much to the spreading and establishing of the Christian Faith. Paul calls him "my own son in the faith." "Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus, Who is our hope, to Timothy, my own son in the Faith: grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Timothy 1: 1-2). After Paul's martyrdom, Timothy had St. John the Evangelist as his teacher. But when the Emperor Domitian banished John from Ephesus to the island of Patmos, Timothy remained in Ephesus to serve as bishop. During the time of an idolatrous feast called Katagogium, the pagans, resentful of the Christians, treacherously and in disguise, attacked Timothy and killed him about the year 93 A.D. Later his honorable relics were translated to Constantinople and interred in the Church of the Twelve Apostles alongside of the grave of St. Luke the Evangelist and St. Andrew the First-called.



Christian Faith. Paul calls him "my own son in the faith." "Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus, Who is our hope, to Timothy, my own son in the Faith: grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Timothy 1: 1-2). After Paul's martyrdom, Timothy had St. John the Evangelist as his teacher. But when the Emperor Domitian banished John from Ephesus to the island of Patmos, Timothy remained in Ephesus to serve as bishop. During the time of an idolatrous feast called Katagogium, the pagans, resentful of the Christians, treacherously and in disguise, attacked Timothy and killed him about the year 93 A.D. Later his honorable relics were translated to Constantinople and interred in the Church of the Twelve Apostles alongside of the grave of St. Luke the Evangelist and St. Andrew the First-called.

General Announcements

PASTOR WILLING TO CALL GOD'S GRACE UPON YOUR HOME — Traditionally,



the priest personally visits his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By having our home blessed annually, we extend God's grace to our individual dwellings. Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by our sins and consequently separate or weaken God's protective power. *We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year (by fulfilling our Paschal requirement) and even the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year. Our homes should be sanctified with Sanctified Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants.* As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of great importance and more effective. If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the Church office (412) 771-3324

REMINDER TO WRITE AMOUNT ON YOUR ENVELOPES — Often times when our devoted Counters are dealing with several different envelopes (Sundays, Holy Days, Special Collections, etc.) it is possible that a donation slips by without a written amount indicated. Would you please help us and place the amount on your envelope?!? Be sure that your checks are signed with the new year and that you place the contribution in the envelope or if several envelopes with one check attach with a paperclip. Often we receive an envelope with nothing inside. **Submit all envelopes even if writing one check.** It helps our bookkeeping!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR B.C.W. SUBSCRIPTION— A good source of Archieparchial News is **The Byzantine Catholic World**. News and photographs concerning all parishes are reported. Our parishes cannot sustain the cost on a complimentary basis. Please submit \$14.00 in the special envelope in your contribution box. If you are subscribing for the first time, please make a notation on the envelope: **NEW SUBSCRIBER**. This will help the Church office to expedite your request. If you would like to subscribe for someone not able to afford an annual subscription, please submit the amount.



SUPPORTING THE CHURCH IS AN IMPORTANT PRECEPT — A reminder, once again, that it is the policy of HGC is that if you have not contributed for two full years, your envelopes will be removed in respect of your decision. Don't worry, if you wish to be reinstated, just phone the Church office and ask to be reinstated. It is as easy as that. If you are not currently receiving contribution envelopes, please contact the Church office

A.S.A.P. and request to be put on the list. Envelopes signify your membership to the parish. Adult envelopes are to be used by all who have graduated from high school.

i ♥ my church

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE NUMBER: _____
 AMOUNT: \$ _____ () CASH () CHECK