

Parish Offerings – Sunday Before Theophany — January 5, 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 (\$2,863) YP (\$6)	\$2,869.00
Holy Days (\$315) YP (\$4) Christmas (\$120) Initial (\$329) YP (\$6)	774.00
Votive Candles	126.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,769.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$984) YP (\$1)	\$985.00
Holy Days (\$90) Christmas (\$10)	100.00
Utilities (\$30) Improvement (\$65) Initial (\$58) YP (\$1)	154.00
Votive Candles (\$69) B.C.W. (\$14)	83.00
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	\$1,322.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat, 4:00 p.m. (31)

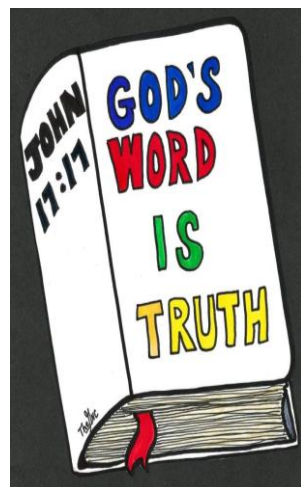
(MR) 9:00 a.m. (57); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)


Theophany — Sunday. (MR) 7:00 p.m. (21); Mon.(MR) 9:00 a.m. (28); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (18)






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





GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society

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Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172370

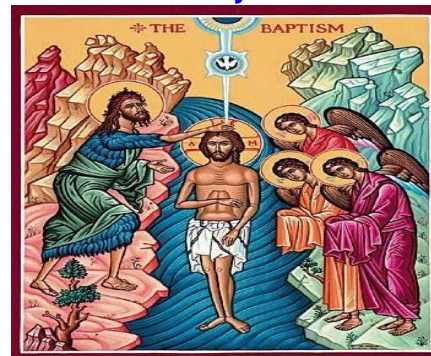
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY AFTER ENLIGHTENMENT

The Sunday After Theophany — January 12, 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

Web-site: www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

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

As the prophet foretold, a Great Light, Christ, has shown upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulun, and the land of Naphtali. A people living in darkness have seen a Great Light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is a protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today (Ikos of Theophany Matins).

January 12, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:
(Jan. 5 through Jan. 14)

Volume XV Number 2



Christ is Baptized — In the Jordan!
Christos Kreščajetsja! — Vo Jordan'ii



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
SUNDAY AFTER THE ENLIGHTENMENT			
The Sunday After Theophany — Renewal of Baptismal Promises			
SUN, Jan 12	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (birthday)	Valeriano & Kallop Families
Mon., Jan 13	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Harsh (birthday 1/12) + Dorothy Sadler (6 th ann of passing 1/12)	Family
Final Day of the Theophany Feast			
Tue, Jan 14	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Korim, Jr. (birthday)	Nephew: Fr. Firko
Wed, Jan 15	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John J. Wayne (24 th ann of passing 1/9)	MaryEllen & John Oslick
Thrs, Jan 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Robert Bordas	Michelle & George Horan
Venerable Father Anthony the Great			
Fri, Jan 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Darko S. Gataric (birthday 1/9)	Sister: Ljiljana & Tim Firko
Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity			
Sat, Jan 18	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for Sunday after 35th Sunday after Pentecost			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ John R. Debranski (birthday)	Dgtr: Nancy

THE 35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTCOST

SUN, Jan 19	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John D. Marks (1 st ann of passing 1/22)	Anonymous
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Peter A. Smoley. (52 nd ann of passing 1/17)	Dgtr: Mary Ann

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 12 – Michael Tomchak; **Jan 13** – Noreen Muha; **Jan 14** – James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole; **Jan 15** – William Boros; **Jan 18** – Michael Ferrell.

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 12 — January 18, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Terrek & Mikovitz Families**

offered by Mildred (Mikovitz) Terrek & Family

(NS): **In memory of Diane V. Vida** (2nd ann of passing 1/19)

(MR) Few AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Anonymous

(NS) Few AVAILABLE 2025

General Announcements

UPCOMING MEETING 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



Sunday, January 26, 2025 following the Divine Liturgy
Also here is the tally of our pre-Christmas sales:
November/December Sales: \$26,147.50; Expenses: - \$4,060.58; Central Diner Luncheon: -\$508.60; Minus Cathedraticum: -\$1,037.81. Total Proceeds: \$19,718.22 (Deposited into the Parish Savings & Share Account).
Expenses included in above figure: Containers (-\$822.29);

A special note of gratitude to all our Pirohi Workers, and to Donna & Harry Herron, who are the GCU Representatives who will be applying for the \$3,000.00 matching funds not reflected in the above statement. Also, not reflected is the interest from the Parish Savings and Share Account. May God always remember all that you do for our Holy Ghost Church!

BYZAN-TEEN CANDY SALES CONTINUE IN PROGRESS — Our Byzan-TEEN Youth Group are now commencing fund raising event to prepare for the next Youth Rally. Sarris Candy bars will now be available following the weekend Divine Liturgies this week for \$1.00. Let's assist them by purchasing candy bars!

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 FORTHCOMING — 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 on **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. The more assistance we can get, the faster we will be able to depart. Please consider helping us, especially if you weren't able to be present to set up.

EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS THIS WEEK — 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."

CONTINUING THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST

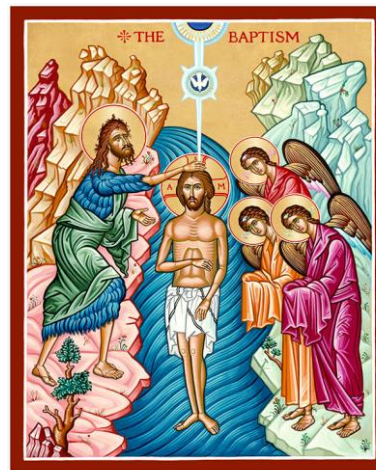


Sunday after the Enlightenment



GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17

We are currently in the Postfestive period of Holy Theophany, and it is designated to be a continuation of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This

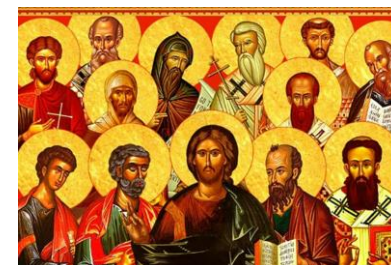


Sunday is referred to as the "Sunday after the Enlightenment." This designation comes from the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the "Enlightenment." It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus' own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared for their initiation and admission into the Church received baptism, chrismation and eucharist on that day. Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one's own baptism, and how its relevance and personal effect have called us to be God's new chosen people. What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with

Jesus' Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us?

The (Church) Fathers Know Best

The Early Church Fathers believed that being baptized was being born again. They baptized both adults and infants and they used three methods; immersion, pouring and sprinkling. **Tertullian:** *"No one can attain salvation without baptism, especially in view of the declaration of the Lord, who says, "Unless a man shall be born of water, he shall not have life" (On Baptism 12:1 [A.D. 203].* **Origen:** *"The Church received from the apostles the tradition of giving baptism even to infants. The apostles, to whom were committed the secrets of divine sacraments, knew there is in everyone innate strains of [original] sin, which must be washed away through water and the Spirit" (Commentaries on Romans 5:9 [A.D. 248])*



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 Annual Federal Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. — 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 am.; (NS) 10:50 pm.
 February 21-22 First Universal All Souls Saturday: (NS) 6:00 p.m. & (MR) 9:00 a.m.

Saint of the Week — January 12

The Holy Woman Martyr Tatiana

Tatiana was a Roman whose parents were of great nobility. She was a Christian and a deaconess in the church. After the death of Emperor Heliogabalus,



Emperor Alexander, whose mother Mammae was a Christian, reigned in Rome. The emperor himself was wavering and indecisive in the Faith for he kept statues of Christ, Apollo, Abraham and Orpheus in his palace. His chief assistants persecuted the Christians without the emperor's orders. When they brought out the virgin Tatiana for torture, she prayed to God for her torturers. And behold, their eyes were opened and they saw four angels around the martyr. Seeing this, eight of them believed in Christ for which they also were tortured and slain. The tormentors continued to torture St. Tatiana. They whipped her, cut off parts of her body; they scraped her with irons. All disfigured and bloody, Tatiana was thrown into the dungeon that evening so that the next day, they could, again, begin anew with different tortures.

But God sent His angels to the dungeon to encourage her and to heal her wounds so that, each morning, Tatiana appeared before the torturers completely healed. They threw her before a lion, but the lion endeared himself to her and did her no harm. They cut off her hair, thinking, according to their pagan reasoning, that some sorcery or some magical power was concealed in her hair. Finally, Tatiana along with her father were both beheaded. Thus, Tatiana ended her earthly life about the year 225 A.D., and this heroic virgin, who had the fragile body of a woman but a robust and valiant spirit, was crowned with the immortal wreath of glory.

General Announcements

THE MANY BENEFITS OF SANCTIFIED AND HOLY WATER

Because sanctified and holy water is one of the Church's sacramentals, it remits venial sin. Keep your soul beautifully pure in God's sight by making the Sign of the Cross carefully while saying: "Wash me with hyssop and I shall become clean, cleanse me and I will be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51). Draw Blessings down on Your Loved Ones. Holy water, sprinkled with faith and



piety, can move the Sacred Heart to bless your loved ones and protect them from all harm of soul and body. When worry and fear take possession of your heart, hasten to your holy water font, and give your dear ones the benefit of the Church's prayers. HOLY WATER USES: Bless Yourself and Others (family & friends) Bless Your Pets Bless Your House (especially during bad weather); Bless Your Electronics (computers, televisions, etc.); Bless Your Car, Motorcycle, and/or Boat, Bless Your Work Space; Bless the Sick and Dying Sprinkle Some on the Graves when you visit a Cemetery & also sprinkle some for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Proper Disposal of Holy Water: **Remember to discard previous years Sanctified Water in a respectable manner such as watering your plants or place it in an area of the ground**

that is not walked on! It is not to be poured down the sink drain! Also, you may bring it to North Side Church to be drained in a holy sink called a Sacarium.

PLEASE 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.

i ♥ my church	NAME: _____	TITLE: _____
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	CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____	
	PHONE NUMBER: _____	
	AMOUNT: \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK