

Parish Offerings – Sunday of OT Holy Fathers & Christmas — Dec. 22, 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 (\$2,689) YP (\$11)	\$2,700.00
Holy Days (\$241) Christmas (\$3,734) YP (\$37)	4,002.00
Votive Candles	224.60
	<hr/>
	\$6,926.60

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$655) YP (\$5)	\$660.00
Holy Days (\$40) Christmas (\$1,248.80) YP (\$1)	1,289.80
Special Donation (In mem. of Dolores & George Hudanick by Son: Paul) ...	200.00
Votive Candles (\$139.55) Utilities (\$40) Improvement (\$20)	209.55
	<hr/>
	\$2,359.35

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (21)

(MR) 9:00 a.m. (66); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (35)

CHRISTMAS EVE (MR) 9:00 p.m. (50);

CHRISTMAS (MR) 9:00 a.m. (77); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)

Synaxis of Theotokos — Thrs, Dec. 26 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (6); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (8)

Feast of St. Stephen — Fri, Dec. 27 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (5); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (n/a)

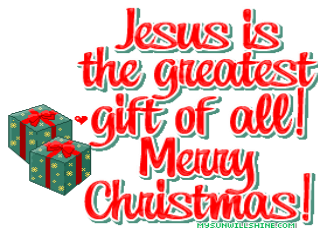


Valerian F. Szal

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 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Righteous Joseph, King David & Apostle James, relative of the Lord
December 29, 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)

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

SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY

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

December 29, 2024

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIV Number



(Dec. 24 through Jan. 4):

Christ is Born! — Glorify Him!
Christos Raždajetsja! — Slavite Jeho!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

IN MEMORY OF THE— Righteous Joseph, King David & Apostle James

SUN, Dec 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Ethel M. Galida (birthday 12/31) Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen



Mon, Dec 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(13th ann of passing 12/28)

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** (your choice)
for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Tue, Dec 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak Janet Herczak
(3rd ann of passing)

FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD & FEAST OF ST. BASIL



New Year's Day — Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

58th Anniversary of Prayer for World Peace



WED, JAN 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Agnes Kress (15th ann of passing) Son: Bill & Kathe

Prefestive of Theophany

Thrs, Jan 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
for Blessings Received



VIGIL OF THEOPHANY

First Friday of the Month — Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** (your choice)

Fri, Jan 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) ROYAL 6TH HOUR W/TYPICA
St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy — 1:00 p.m. (MR) + Fr. John Kasarda (birthday 1/5)

First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sat, Jan 4 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll. Son: William

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for Sunday before The Enlightenment — Sunday before Theophany
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifurulak Hubal Family

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ENLIGHTENMENT

The Sunday Before Theophany

SUN, Jan 5 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay Diane & Jim Lasko

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

Dec 29 — Evelyn Yakubik; Dec 31 — Calahan Bedard; Jan 1 — Elaine Cassidy; Jan 2 — Stephanie Herron; Jan 3 — Bernadette Gunkle, Shirley Kotik; Jan. 4 — George Brosky.

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, Kathe Kress, ARLENE LATTI, KIRK LATTI, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, 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): Theresa Kundrat.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why is it so important to go to Church? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Why is it important for a lover to be with his beloved? If we love God, we will want to spend time with Him in the way He wants us to. God wants us to give ourselves to Him in worship (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-19; CCC 2096). And He wants us to do it through His Son's own self-surrender and sacrifice, the Eucharist (Lk. 22:17-19; CCC1389). All that requires our going to Church as God commands (Heb. 10:25). Another reason for going to Church: We receive special graces by worshipping God and by receiving the Eucharist (Jn. 6:56). Going to Church can change us and convert our hearts. It can teach us we are not the center of the universe — God is — and He deserves our praise and thanksgiving (Rev. 5:12; Psalm 145:1-3; CCC 300). One more point: If we are not worshipping God, we are worshipping something else — ourselves, television, a movie star or a sports team. Not going to Church does not mean we won't worship anything, only that we will worship the wrong thing (CC 2113).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

December 29 — January 4, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Monsignor Russell A. Duker**

offered by all (MR) Holy Ghost Parishioners

(NS): **In memory of Living & Deceased Members of Chesmar Family**

(MR) Few AVAILABLE FOR 2025 offered by David S. Chesmar, Jr.

(NS) Few AVAILABLE 2025



General Announcements

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of (MR) parishioner, **Sandra Rosko, 61**, at Allegheny General Hospital on Wednesday, November 27, 2024. She resided in Kennedy Township, PA. She is survived by husband, Gregory; and children: Daniel, Heather (David) Zusinas and Nicholas. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Dec. 2nd here at Holy Ghost Church at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township.; **Michael W. Palahunik, Jr, 65**, who passed away at home in Moon Township. He is survived by wife: Monica (Heinz). The Musmanno Funeral Home handled the



private arrangements. Our parish extends its most *sincere condolences to the Rosko and Palahunik Families*. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal rest* to your servants, Sadra and Michael, and remember them forever. Vičnaja Jim Pamjat'!

private arrangements. Our parish extends its most *sincere condolences to the Rosko and Palahunik Families*. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal rest* to your servants, Sadra and Michael, and remember them forever. Vičnaja Jim Pamjat'!

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON FOR OUR PIROHI VOLUNTEERS — In gratitude for all who worked sacrificially on this Christmas Project, a Complimentary Appreciation Luncheon will be held at **Central Diner tomorrow, December 30 @ 12:00 noon**. If you have not signed the list, please contact the Church office A.S.A.P.

(NS) OFFERING FOR THE POOR — THANK YOU FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES



— The following letter from **Light of Life Rescue Mission**: Dear North Side Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church: This year we are celebrating our 71st year in existence. We are more committed than ever to helping our vulnerable and underserved neighbors. It is only through your support and the support of the Pittsburgh community that we are able to

keep our lights on and serve our clients with dignity and respect. We are grateful of your monetary gift of \$90.00 which provides life-changing care to the poor and homeless of our area. I pray that the Lord blesses and protects you in this year. May you find peace and joy in this new year. Thank you for your prayers and donations. — Rev. Jerrel T. Gilliam, Executive Director.

BYZAN-TEEN CANDY SALES NOW IN PROGRESS — Our Byzan-TEEN Youth Group are now commencing fund raising event to prepare for the 2020 Youth Rally in California. 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!

Christmas Story Continues

The Flight into Egypt — GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23

As we commemorate the flight into Egypt as we did on the day following Christmas. The Magi from the East, having worshipped the Lord in Bethlehem, were directed to return to their home another way by command of an angel. Herod, that wicked king, planned to slaughter all the children in Bethlehem, but God saw Herod's intention and sent His angel to Joseph. The angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and commanded him to take the young Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt. Thus, the words of the prophet were fulfilled: *Behold, the Lord rides upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt* (Isaiah 19:1). In old Cairo today, the cave where the holy family lived can be seen. Likewise, in the village of Matarea near Cairo, the tree under which the Most-Holy Theotokos rested with the Lord Jesus, as well as a miraculous spring of



water under this tree, are visible. After having lived for several years in Egypt, the holy family returned to Palestine, again in response to a command of an angel of God. Thus, another prophecy was fulfilled: *Out of Egypt have I called my Son* (Hosea 11:1). Herod was dead and his wicked son Archelaus -a worthy successor of him in evil-sat on his bloodstained throne. Hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Jerusalem, Joseph returned to Galilee, to his town of Nazareth, where he settled in his own home. Herod's second son, Herod the Younger, who was somewhat less evil than his brother Archelaus, then reigned in Galilee.

Troparion of Christmas And the Ruthenian (Rusyn) Tradition

An aspect of the liturgical tradition that many present-day Byzantine Catholics



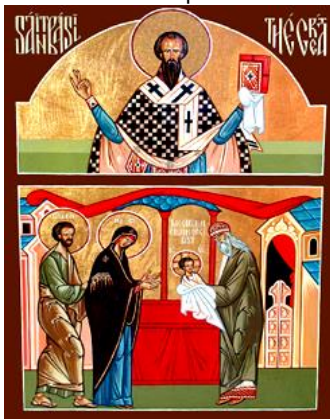
have lost occurs in the Christmas Troparion. Many of you should remember your parents and grandparents bowing slightly and making the sign of the Cross over themselves each time the **Christmas Troparion** was sung. A slight bow with a sign of the Cross should be made during the phrase: **"... have learned from a star to worship (+) You the Sun of Justice.** On the word *worship* we are to bow and bless ourselves. This demonstrates our adoration to the Christ-Child by bowing in spirit and body. Let us revive the tradition of the founders and benefactors of our Holy Ghost Church and transmit to our children and others this unique manner of glorifying the newly-born Christ Child.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 a.m.
 January 3 (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal 6th Hour of Theophany; (MR) 1:00 p.m. St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy.
 January 5 Anticipated Feast of Theophany — Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
 HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION with Great Sanctification of Water (MR) 7:00 p.m.
 January 6 Feast of Theophany — Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
 Sanctification of Water — Holy Day of Obligation — (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 Sanctification of Water — Holy Day of Obligation — (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 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.
 February 2 .Traditional Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 am.; (NS) 5:50 pm.

Solemn Holy Day & Saint of the Week FEAST OF OUR LORD'S CIRCUMCISION & Feast of St. Basil the Great — January 1

The Mosaic Law prescribed that when a woman brought a male child into the world, he



had to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. Our Lord submitted to the circumcision prescribed by the Law on this day, which is the eighth day after His birth, and received, according to the announcement of the angel, the name which is above all names, "Jesus" or Savior. In celebrating the name day of the Lord today, we begin the New Year at the same time under the sign of the Nativity of Christ. Saint Basil the Great belonged to the province of Pontus, through his father also named Basil, and through his Emmelia, and through his mother Emmelia, to Cappadocia. He was born in Caesarea in Cappadocia around 329-330. He studied in Caesarea, then in Constantinople under

Litanies, and finally in Athens, where he became a close friend of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus. Shortly after his return to Caesarea which occurred about 356, he retired in solitude to the outskirts of Neocaesarea, where his mother and his sister Macrina already led the monastic life. It is at that time he composed his ascetical writings. He was ordained a priest by Eusebius, Archbishop of Caesarea, and at the death of the latter was elected in 370 to succeed him and rule the Church of Christ. He governed it for eight years, during which time he proved himself a witness of the truth in the face of heresy and full of courage before the threats of the Arian Emperor Valens. He died on January 1, in the year 379. The wisdom and the learning which fill his works, his Philokalia (extracts from the works of Origen), his Treatise on the Holy Spirit, his theological work against the Arian Eunomius, his ascetical writings, his monastic rules, his commentaries on Sacred Scripture, the panegyrics which he made of many saints, his correspondence, and finally the splendor and the force of his words, have won for him rightly the epitaphs of "Revealer of Heaven," and of the "Great."

General Announcements

2025 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX — Your 2025 *Contribution Envelopes* are ready for pickup. Please look for your name and not your current number. If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office. **Please do not use your 2025 until January! As mentioned, your new box of envelopes may not have the same number.** If you have not contributed in two years, you will have to call the church office to be reinstated. This helps us to keep costs down. Again, we wish to thank and ask God's blessings on the **Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home and Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home** for sponsoring our new year calendars.



CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER — The Church cannot



operate very well if it weren't for volunteers! To show appreciation for all who volunteered in some aspect of parish life throughout 2023, a **Parish Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township** will be on **Monday, December 30, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.** This includes all Altar Servers, Ushers, Cantors, Readers, Office Personnel, Collection Counters, Church & Rectory Cleaners and Decorators, Altar Cover changers, Catechists, Radio Ministry, etc. This Dinner also includes all Pirohi Workers who will not be able to attend their luncheon buffet ..

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!



RESERVATIONS FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS CONTINUE — Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp reservations are being taken on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both areas only two weekends of each will be accepted. When the demand subsides, you will be able to reserve additional weekend dates. Place your intention **and \$10.00 stipend per Sanctuary Lamp**. Several months ago, the chancery raised the stipend fee per Divine Liturgy to \$20.00. Place intentions and stipend in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and place it in the collection basket.

