

**Parish Offerings – Samaritan Woman Sunday — May 18, 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 (\$1,861) YP (\$8) .....	\$1,869.00
Holy Days .....	10.00
Seminary .....	20.00
Votive Candles .....	127.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,026.50

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$700) YP (\$1) .....	\$701.00
Votive Candles .....	56.00

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$757.00

Sat., (MR) 4:00 p.m. (22)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (52); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (24)



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA

**SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**

**Memorial Day Weekend – 6<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday**

**Month of the Most Holy Theotokos — May 25, 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**

**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**

**Website: [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.

**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!



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

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

*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



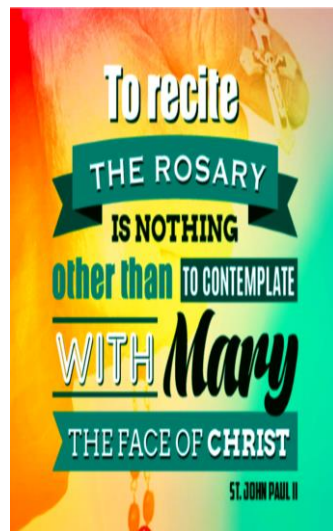
North Side Parishioner

**Alan**

**Valeriano**

**(412) 638-3417**

**PA #172370**



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

# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

As He went on His way, Jesus the Lord Who saves us met a man struck with blindness from his birth. Moistening the dust of the earth with His saliva, Christ made some mud to anoint the eyes of the Blind Man. Then He sent him to Siloam to wash in the pool; when he had washed the Blind Man returned, and he saw the brightness of Your light, O Christ (Matins of Blind Man)

May 25, 2025 **Seasonal Christian Greeting:** Volume XV, Number 22

**Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen!**

**Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!**

## Liturgical Services for the Week

**Date** **Time** **Intention** **Requested By**

### SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

#### Memorial Day Weekend — 6<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday

**SUN, May 25** **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Eleanor Kulka Children: Kathy & John  
(12<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/26)  
**11:00 a.m. (NS)** + Margaret "Peg" Krulac Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko  
(9<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/22)

#### Memorial Day Observed — Federal Holiday — No Bank or Postal Service

Mon, May 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + All who died in the Service of our Country  
Tues, May 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowatch (birthday 5/26) Anne Meyers

#### Final Day of Feast of the Radiant Resurrection & Solemn Removal of Burial Shroud

Wed, May 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary (Danks) Sisak Michael B. Sisak Family  
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#### Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension — Holy Day of Obligation

**7:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes**

### GLORIOUS ASCENSION OF OUR LORD INTO HEAVEN

#### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

**THRS, MAY 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving (48<sup>th</sup> ann of Ordination 5/22) Pastor**

**6:00 p.m. (NS) + Dolores Hudanick Children: George, Paul & Janet**

#### REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

Fri, May 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Gramata (27<sup>th</sup> ann of pass. 6/29) . E & G Gramata  
6:00 p.m. (MR) The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Sat, May 31 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
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#### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council & Ascension Feast

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Anna + George Skaylo (wed ann 5/26) Dgtr: Joyce & James Welsh Fam

### SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUM. COUNCIL

#### Postfestive of the Ascension

**SUN., June 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene O. Bordas Bernadette Gunkel**  
**11:00 a.m. (NS) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay (Ordination) Joan Senchyshyn**

# 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 be published.

*Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners*

**May 25** – Dana Leasure, George Lucas, Nicholas Rosko; **May 27** – Edward Wovchko; **May 31** – LESLIE MARIE BODNARCHUK.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuas, Dolores & William Boras, Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL & CINDY MEADERS, 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) Wauthier.

**TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING** (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Posnak  
**VANADIUM WOODS VILLAGE** (50 Vanadium Rd, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Bea Stempkowski.

**CONCORDIA OF BRIDGEVILLE** (3560 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Flo Charochak.  
**CARNEGIE PARK POST-ACUTE CARE** (1848 Greentree Rd, Pittsburgh, 15220): Dolores Babin.

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

**Q.** What is the difference between Catholic and Christian? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Nothing. To be Catholic is to be fully Christian... All Catholics are Christians, but not all Christians are Catholic. A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and is baptized. A Catholic is a specific kind of Christian — one who believes that the Catholic Church was founded by Christ and accepts it as a possessing the fullness of Christian truth and the means of salvation (Mt 16: 18-19; 1 Tim. 3:15; CCC 2032-2033, 2051). Being Catholic involves three main things: (1) sincerely holding to the Catholic Faith as taught by the Magisterium, which is the official teaching body of the Church (2 Thess 2:15; CCC 1113, 1129); (2) accepting the sacraments of the Catholic Church; and (3) submitting to the teaching authority of the pope and the bishops in communion with him (1 Thess 5: 12-13; CCC 1269). The words Catholic and Christian were once interchangeable. The first Christians called the Church "catholic" or "universal" to distinguish it from heretical splinter groups that denied necessary Christian truths. Thus, early Christians came to be known as Catholics.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**May 25 — May 31, 2025**

(MR): **In memory of Irene Muha** (birthday 5/1)

offered by Family

(NS): **In memory of Theodore Demianczak, Jr.**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025 offered by Dgtr: Dawn Ringes & Family (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025

# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**(MR) AGAIN, AN ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONOR PURCHASES FLOWERS FOR THE**



**BLESSED MOTHER ICON** — Once again, an anonymous source will be donating beautiful and colorful flowers to be placed before the Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis for all four Fridays during the month. May is the month of the Holy Virgin Mary. We thank whoever you are, and we commend you and your intentions before the feet of the Holy Theotokos. Let us remember that each of us can place a spiritual bouquet before her on all Fridays this month by praying the Holy Rosary.

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK** — A PAC Meeting will be conducted this **Tuesday, June 10, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.** All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance in the parish office. Please mark your calendar.

**(MR) MARIAN DEVOTIONS CONTINUE EVERY FRIDAY OF MAY** — In all Rites of the



Catholic Church, the month of May is especially devoted to the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Come join us at the **HGC-MR on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.** for the offering of the Holy Rosary to the Most Holy Mother of God, especially as we pray for the return of our family, relatives, and friends back

to the Church and Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) and that our Country may return to God-given moral values. God bless all who pray for these causes!

**(MR) ANNOUNCING II BANNS OF MARRIAGE** — This is the first announcement of the upcoming Nuptial Ceremony on **Saturday, June 14, 2025** of **Brandon Robert Hatton (NC) and Mickayla Elizabeth Poloka (BC – MR- Holy Ghost Church)** to be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. If anyone knows why this couple cannot enter into Holy Matrimony, please inform the Pastor A.S.A.P.



## North Side

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK** — A PAC Meeting will be conducted on **Sunday, June 15, 2025** following the Divine Liturgy. All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance in the parish rectory. Please mark your calendar.

**EASTER DUTY PRECEPT** — All Christian Faithful are **OBLIGED (MANDATED)** to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death **AND** during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). In regards to the latter, this is traditionally known as the **EASTER DUTY**. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary before receiving Holy Communion. Serious Sins are those fractures especially against the Ten Commandments and omissions of the 6 Precepts of the Church, but not limited to them. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (June 15)** is the final day to take care of this important spiritual matter without incurring serious (mortal) sin of omission. Use the special examination of conscience forms located in the vestibule and narthex of the Church to assist you in making a good confession of sins.

# THE SIXTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

## Baptism originally termed

### 'Holy Illumination' and "Enlightenment" — *(first read John 9: 1-38)*

The methodology of the actual cure of this man born blind in today's Holy Gospel



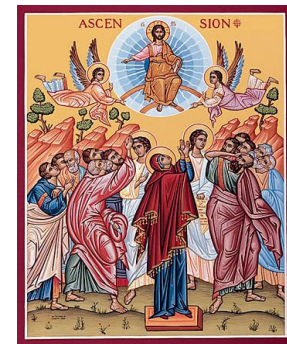
symbolizes mankind's means for its recovery from its blindness. It symbolizes the Holy Mystery of Baptism. Baptism is called 'holy illumination'. Those who have been recently baptized are referred to as the newly illuminated. As this man is cured of his blindness when he washes in the waters of the pool of Siloam, as Jesus tells him to do, so are we brought out of darkness into a new life when we are baptized as Christ instructed us to be. Jesus restores his creation, mankind, with the potential to become what it was meant to be before the fall of Adam. We also hear in the reading that after this man was cured many of those who knew him before did not recognize him. He is still the same man but something has significantly

changed about him. He is no longer blind. So, when we are illuminated, we are also new persons, though our outward appearance might be the same. To symbolize this newness a white garment is put on us to show the purity with which we start this new existence. We must however, become different and unrecognizable in our inward and outward actions also. We must manifest our new existence to those around us through these actions. We must radiate this new found light to others by the way we live our lives. We must say to the world *"I am he who was blind but now my eyes are opened."* Credit must be given to Him who has cured us of our darkness by living our lives according to the lessons of the illumination we have received and the continued guidance we get with the reception of the Holy Spirit.

## Ascension Thursday This Week

This week's *Feast of the Ascension (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)* reminds us that our true destiny lies in God.

We must not only do what Jesus commands us, but we must follow him to the place where he has gone. The *Feast of the Ascension* tells us that our life is not limited to life on earth, but after our death we will experience a new life in heaven, and even now we are being pulled by the strings of God's love towards our encounter with him. Now, in our Liturgy let us try to open ourselves to God's boundless love --- the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit --- so that He may confirm and strengthen us in our love for Him and for the world. **ATTENTION: REMAIN**



**STANDING WHEN WE SING:** *"Be exalted above the heavens, O God, and let Your glory be over all the earth."* See the liturgical schedule for times.

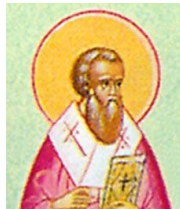
# Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 26 ..... Memorial Day observed.  
May 28 .... Great Vespers w/DL for Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 7:00 p.m.  
May 29 ... Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.  
June 6 & 7 ..... 5<sup>th</sup> Universal All-Souls Saturday – Jun 6 (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Jun 7 (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
June 8 ..... Feast of the Decent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.  
June 15 ..... Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling your Easter Duty.

## Saints of the Week

### THE HOLY APOSTLE HERMAS OF THE 70

May 31



The Holy Apostle Hermas was a bishop in Philippopolis, Thrace. He was a Greek, but he spent some time in Rome. The holy Apostle Paul greets him in the Epistle to the Romans (Rom 16:14). The Apostle Hermas endured much grief from the pagans for preaching the Gospel, but he died in peace. According to Tradition, Saint Hermas is the author of THE SHEPHERD, an instructive book based on revelations from angels.

### THE HOLY MARTYR HERMIAS AT COMANA

May 31



Holy Martyr Hermias suffered for Christ in the city of Comana during the persecution under the emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161). The governor Sebastian, who was in Cappadocia to arrest Christians, urged the saint to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, promising him honors and mercy from the emperor. The old soldier bravely confessed his faith in Christ. After long exhortation, the governor gave orders to torture the saint. They beat him on the face so that the skin peeled from his face, and they threw him into a red-hot oven. When the oven was opened after three days, the martyr Hermias emerged from it unharmed. The governor Sebastian ordered the sorcerer Marus to poison Saint Hermias with a potion. The poisonous drink did the saint no harm. A second goblet with even stronger poison also failed to kill the saint. The sorcerer believed in Christ the Savior, and was immediately beheaded. Saint Marus was baptized in his own blood, and received a martyr's crown. Saint Hermias was subjected to even more terrible tortures. They raked his body with sharp instruments, threw him in boiling oil, and gouged out his eyes, but he gave thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ. Then they suspended the martyr head downward. For three days he hung in this position. People sent by the governor to verify his death found him alive. Struck by the miracle, they were blinded with fright and began to call out to the saint to help them. The holy martyr ordered the blind to approach him, and healed them in the Name of Jesus Christ. In anger the governor ordered the skin flayed from the saint's body, but he remained alive. Then the crazed Sebastian beheaded him with his own sword. Christians secretly buried the body of the martyr Hermias, whose relics bestowed numerous healings.

# General Announcements

**DEACON LUKE TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN JULY** — The following is a note by Deacon Luke to be published in our Spirit of Truth (S.O.T.) Church Bulletin: *“Deacon Luke Lyengar would like to invite you to his Priesthood Ordination on Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall as well as his First Solemn Divine Liturgy invoking the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks. Both Divine Liturgies will have a party afterwards. If you are able to attend either social event, please inform him by Saturday, June 21 @ (412) 863-3285. You may also sign the list located in the side vestibule and narthex area of both Churches. If you wish, he is also accepting e-mail responses: [Liyengar3@gmail.com](mailto:Liyengar3@gmail.com).”*



**PLANS UNDERWAY FOR PATRONAL PENTECOST COMMEMORATION** — Following last week's Volunteer meeting, our Patronal Feast Day Commemoration is planned for **Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025 following the Divine Liturgy** This will not be a dinner but we will be serving a special Pentecost cake with beverages to mark the occasion. We ask that if you plan on attending that you sign the sheets placed in the (MR) side vestibule; and the (NS) narthex. Further information, please phone Norma Kacsur (412) 331-4864.



**GRADUATES REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED** — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and University/College Graduates on the occasion of our **Patronal Feast, June 8**. All MR & NS graduates will be our guests and receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must phone or email the church office with the following information: (1) *University/College of Graduation*; (2) *Date of Graduation*; (3) *Graduating Degree*; (4) *Future plans and employment*; and (4) *if will you be attending the Recognition Luncheon*. Call the Church Office A.S.A.P. Deadline is today, May 25.



**SAVE THE DATE: PARISH PICNIC SLATED FOR JULY** — Although details will follow in a later edition of the SOT, you are asked to set aside, **Sunday, July 13** for our parish picnic. It will be held once again in the Robinson Township Picnic Grove off of Clever Road. Please plan to join us as a member of our parish family. We are appreciative to our parishioner John Wovchko for securing this pavilion for us.

**SAVE THE DATE** — Our annual Flag Day Ceremony will take place on **Saturday, June 14 following the Divine Liturgy** at the flag pole in the front of the MR Church. Let us show patriotism to the flag when our country needs it the most. Bring a family member/friend!